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**GRABBAN STRIKES TO GIVE
CHERRIES A WIN OVER WIGAN**

Full match report: See page 8

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**RICK'S
FAIRY
TALE
DEBUT**

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WHO ELSE?

Man of the moment Lambert fires Saints to an opening day win at West Brom

MAN of the moment Rickie Lambert secured Saints a superb opening day victory with a 90th minute winner against West Brom.

The striker, who scored with his first touch on his England debut at Wembley on Wednesday night to seal a 3-2 win over

Scotland, was the hero once again.

Saints were the better team at The Hawthorns but it looked as though they would have to settle for a draw until Luke Shaw went down in the box under the challenge of Youssouf Mulumbu and Lambert clinically buried the spot kick.

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GET IN: Rickie Lambert celebrate netting the winner.
Pic by Matt Watson.

CRICKET



**Hants in T20 Finals
Day action**

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TERRY PAINE



**Saints legend pulls
no punches**

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NON-LEAGUE



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with Wendy Gee**

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POOL LEAGUE



**Annual presentation
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WEST BROM 0 SAINTS 1 - Report and reaction: Pages 2-5

Saints Spotlight

Poch: We deserved our victory

MAURICIO Pochettino felt justice was done as his side secured an opening day victory at West Brom.

Saints had the ball in the net in the first half through Adam Lallana but it was ruled out for offside against Jay Rodriguez, who jumped for the ball without making contact before the skipper turned it home at the far post. Pochettino believed that was an incorrect decision and so felt it was only right that his side got a 90th minute penalty as Luke Shaw went down in the area.

West Brom boss Steve Clarke described that decision as "soft" but Rickie Lambert continued his superb week by slamming home the spot kick to bag the win.



CHAT: Mauricio Pochettino and West Brom boss Steve Clarke.

Pochettino said: "We scored a goal before that wasn't allowed to stand. It was a legal goal and we were unlucky in that sense, in that referee's decision."

"I think in the overall reading of the game we were superior to West Bromich."

"In football nowadays you play 94-95 minutes and you always have to believe you are going to win until the last whistle."

"Because of that I want to congratulate my team because even in the second half, when West Bromich was pressing us quite hard, my team showed resolve to keep the result and keep it 0-0 and we were able to get that winning goal in the end."

WEST BROM 0 SAINTS 1: Rickie's late penalty

ENGLAND HERO HAS A WEEK TO

MAN of the moment Rickie Lambert secured Saints a superb opening day victory with a 90th minute winner against West Brom.

The striker, who scored with his first touch on his England debut at Wembley on Wednesday night to seal a 3-2 win over Scotland, was the hero once again.

Saints were the better team at The Hawthorns but it looked as though they would have to settle for a draw until Luke Shaw went down in the box under the challenge of Youssouf Mulumbu and Lambert clinically buried the spot kick.

It was a good opening day for Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino, who saw new signing Victor Wanyama get off to a strong start and his three teenagers – Shaw, Calum Chambers and James Ward-Prowse – all put in good showings.

There was a real sense of excitement at The Hawthorns for the start of the season with both sets of fans making plenty of noise.

The Saints supporters were keen

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER



to pay tribute to Rickie Lambert following his goalscoring England debut in midweek and the side started well, looking composed passing the ball patiently along the backline and keeping possession.

Saints continued to boss the game and started to make inroads into the West Brom defence.

Though they were still searching for a clear cut chance they were causing panic after panic for the Baggies backline.

It was Artur Boruc who had the first save to make on 11 minutes, though whether he had to, or indeed fully intended it, was open to debate.

James Morrison had a fairly weak shot from 20 yards that Boruc strolled across his goal to

see wide, but at the last moment he flung out his right arm and knocked it behind, even though it appeared to be curling wide anyway.

Up the other end James Ward-Prowse tried his luck from 30 yards but it only picked out Ben Foster in the Baggies goal.

Gareth McAuley was the next with a half chance but he headed over from a Graham Dorrans corner.

After a brief spell of West Brom pressure it was all Saints again and only a couple of superb sliding blocks in the area prevented Lambert and Adam Lallana from testing Foster.

Following that superb start the game fell into a little more of a lull, with both sides matching

each other in midfield.

Saints did get the ball in the net on 33 minutes but had it ruled out for offside.

Lambert directed a high header from a right wing cross back across goal.

Jay Rodriguez jumped for it but the ball went over his head and Lallana crept in to turn home at the far post.

However, the linesman's flag was raised with replays showing it was Rodriguez rather than Lallana who was offside and deemed to be interfering with play.

Graham Dorrans briefly worried Boruc with a free kick from 35 yards that curled pretty close to the top corner but ultimately just off target.

Luke Shaw pushed forward with the ball just before the break and pulled the trigger from 25 yards.

He hit a fierce shot with the outside of his left boot that was moving away from Foster but diving away to his right he managed to turn it wide.

That proved to be the last meaningful action of an opening first half of the season that would have satisfied Pochettino with his side having been the better team for the most part. His only frustration would be they hadn't turned that into a goal.

The first booking of the game came three minutes into the second period as McAuley hauled down Rodriguez.

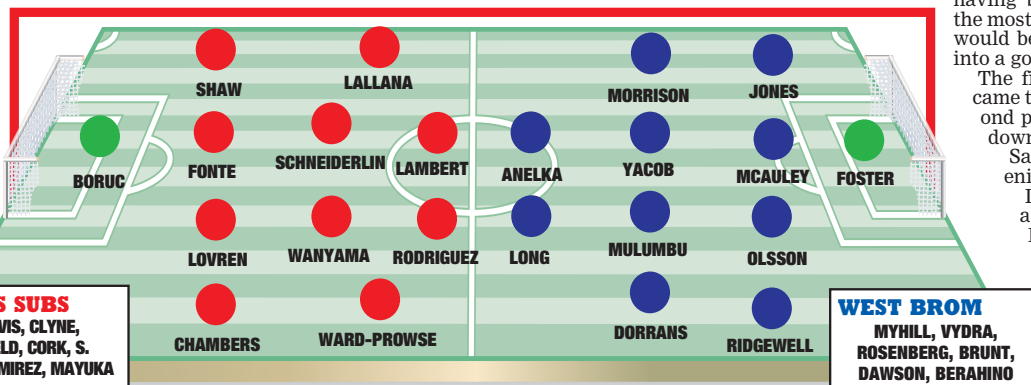
Saints again looked threatening.

Lambert couldn't quite get a clear header to trouble Foster while Rodriguez struck the bar as the whistle went for a foul by Lallana in the build-up.

The performance was exactly what Pochettino would have been hoping for, with his selection of James Ward-Prowse being fully justified by the youngster's excellent display.

However, they still needed to turn that dominance into a goal.

Shane Long reminded Saints of the need of the need to bag that opener as he tried an outlandish flicked finish that went across



Mauricio Pochettino pulled out the same surprise selection for the opening day of the season that Nigel Adkins did at the same stage last time out – starting with James Ward-Prowse. A year ago the youngster was one of the two central midfield-

TEAM NEWS

ers at Manchester City, this time he was selected in one of the three attacking midfield roles at West Brom.

There were full debuts for new signings Dejan Lovren and

Victor Wanyama, while Rickie Lambert was also included after his England goalscoring heroics. Nathaniel Clyne and Luke Shaw were fit to join the squad, but the former was on the bench with Calum Chambers making a Premier League debut.

ALL TODAY'S RESULTS: PAGE 48

MLT
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NATURAL COACHING

Saints Spotlight

gives Saints a winning start

LAMBERT SAVOUR



CLOSE: Jose Fonte goes close for Saints from a corner.



CHANCE: Rickie Lambert fires an effort goalward for Saints in their clash with West Brom.

goal but wide on a rare West Brom counter.

Rodriguez did superbly well to work his way into the box but could only pick out a Baggies defender with teammates waiting to finish.

Calum Chambers made a superb point blank range block on 67 minutes as Morrison tried to convert from six yards out after being found by a cut back but the Saints defender was tight to him and stopped the shot finding the net.

Saints were forced into a first change on 70 minutes as Lallana was replaced by Gaston Ramirez.

The Saints skipper never quite recovered from an earlier late tackle by Billy Jones that saw him take a nasty rake down his shin.

Jones did eventually get booked for colliding into Rodriguez and sending him flying.

The second half was proving a bit of a damp squib after the initial excitement of the opening 45 minutes.

There were few chances to speak of but both sides knew the win and the three points were there for the taking though as the game entered

the closing stages. Saints made a second substitution on 78 minutes with Steve Davis coming on for Rodriguez.

Youssef Mulumbu was the next in the book before West Brom introduced Matej Vydra and Markus Rosenberg for Long and Anelka.

In the final few minutes neither side was really pushing for the winner. There was a very real



sense that while both would love an opening day victory, neither team wanted to over commit and risk losing it.

But Saints were presented the chance to do just that as they won a penalty in the final minute.

Shaw made a run into the box and no sooner had he got in there then he went over after a challenge from Mulumbu.

Referee Kevin Friend immediately pointed to the spot and it was down to Lambert.

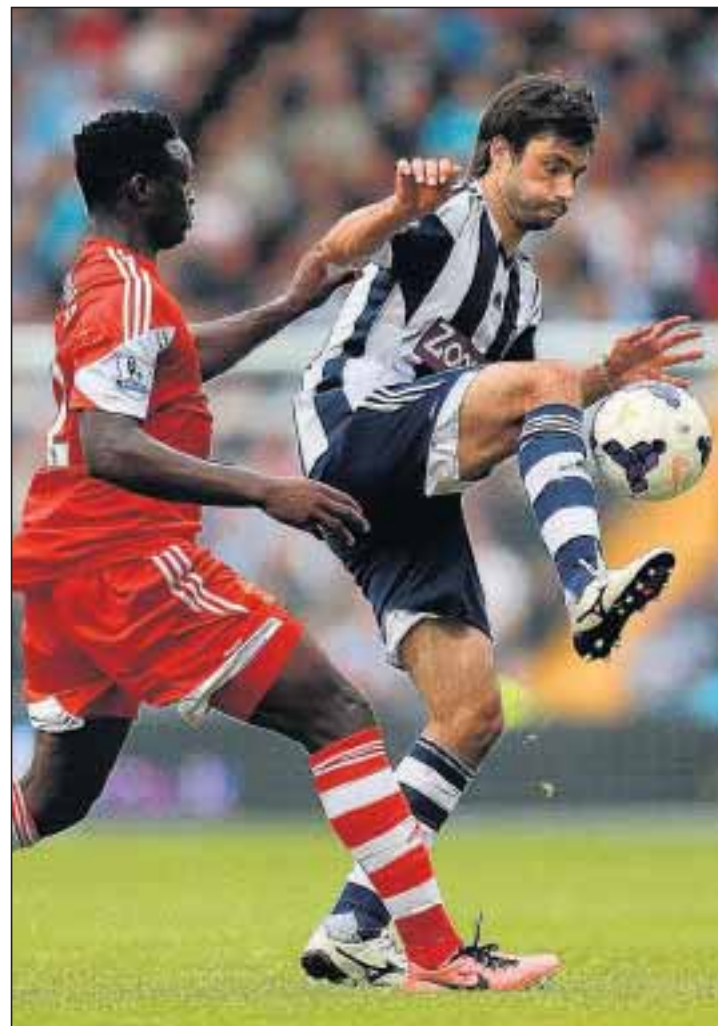
He stepped up and confidently drilled home the spot kick.

Foster guessed correctly and dived to his right but it was too powerful and too accurate and the Saints fans went into raptures.

The fourth official held up the board to show four minutes of stoppage time in which Saints had to hold firm.

West Brom came close as Jones headed towards the bottom corner but Boruc superbly got down to turn it wide.

Saints ate up a few seconds by bringing on Jack Cork for Ward-Prowse and duly held on for the win.



EYES ON THE BALL: Victor Wanyama takes on West Brom midfielder Claudio Yacob on his Premier League debut for Saints.

LEFT: West Brom see a chance go begging.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS

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Saints Spotlight

Glum day for the Gunners

IT WAS miserable first afternoon of the Barclays Premier League season for Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger as Aston Villa came from behind to win at the Emirates Stadium.

The Gunners have not made any major signings yet this summer and the fans were far from happy as two goals from Christian Benteke put the visitors on their way to a 3-1 victory.

Arsenal were ahead after only six minutes through Olivier Giroud but Wojciech Szczesny gave away a penalty and, although the keeper saved Benteke's spot-kick, the Belgian headed in the rebound in the 22nd minute.

And 16 minutes after half-time Benteke had another chance from the spot after Laurent Koscielny fouled Gabriel Agbonlahor, and this time he only needed one chance.

It got worse for Arsenal when Koscielny was shown a second yellow card, and Villa made sure five minutes from time through Antonio Luna on his debut.

New Everton boss Roberto



Martinez, left, had to settle for a point from his first competitive game in charge as the Toffees drew 2-2 with Norwich at Carrow Road.

After a goalless first half, Steven

Whittaker put Norwich in front in the 51st minute but teenager Ross Barkley drilled in his first goal for Everton 10 minutes later and in the 65th minute the visitors took the lead through Seamus Coleman.

Their lead lasted only six minutes, though, as Ricky van Wolfswinkel grabbed a debut goal for Norwich.

There was no dream start to life in the Premier League for Cardiff, who were beaten 2-0 at West Ham.

Joe Cole netted on the turn in the 13th minute and Kevin Nolan made the points safe for the Hammers 14 minutes from time.

Liverpool were the first winners of the new season as they saw off Stoke 1-0 in the early game at Anfield. Daniel Sturridge scored the only goal in the 37th minute with a precision shot.

Stoke goalkeeper Asmir Begovic was the man of the match as he kept Liverpool at bay with a host of fine saves, and it looked like Potters boss Mark Hughes would get a point in his first competitive game when the visitors were awarded a late penalty for a handball by Daniel Agger.

With a minute of normal time left Jonathan Walters stepped up but debutant goalkeeper Simon Mignolet became an instant hero as he denied the Irishman.

At the Stadium of Light Patjim Kasami's first goal for Fulham earned the Cottagers victory over Sunderland.

Academy talents shine

Kids are alright

ALL THE SKILLS: Adam Lallana eludes a West Brom player at The Hawthorns.

IT WAS the former Saints manager, Nigel Adkins, who revealed during his tenure at St Mary's that "the vision is to get 50 per cent of the players in the team through the academy."

Saints didn't quite manage to reach that amount today, but in fielding four products from their own youth set-up they once again underlined their commitment to developing their own talent.

Adkins might be gone, but the message he delivered has not been lost.

Saints opened their season at West Brom with 18-year-old academy graduates Luke Shaw, James Ward-Prowse and Calum Chambers joining the more senior Adam Lallana in the starting line-up.

There was no denying that a certain element of necessity, as well as choice, led to so many being included at the Hawthorns.

Chambers, for example, is unlikely to have

Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS REPORTER



played had Nathaniel Clyne, who made the bench, been fully fit.

Likewise, Ward-Prowse perhaps benefited from Gastón Ramirez's international exertions during the week, with the Uruguayan among the subs after travelling back from Japan.

But both can be enormously proud of how they acquitted themselves.

Ward-Prowse, who made 15 Premier League appearances last term, was a menacing presence in midfield, with his measured and precise distribution of the ball fused with a dangerous delivery from set-pieces.

There might be even greater competition for him in midfield this season, but he has again proved he has much to offer.

For Chambers, it has been quite a summer.

Taken on the first-team's pre-season tour, he started every friendly during the summer at right-back, while he was also awarded with a new four-year contract.

But, with just six minutes of first-team football under his belt, in a 4-1 League Cup victory at Stevenage a year ago, Chambers could only have dreamed of starting the opening game of the Premier League season.

Yet start it he did, echoing Ward-Prowse's own surprise league bow at Manchester City on the first day of last term, and the England Under-19 international, who has been with the club since the age of seven, can reflect on a thoroughly accomplished performance.

While he might not have come under huge pressure, partly in thanks to Saints largely controlling the midfield, and although he was never likely to offer the threat going forward that Shaw did on the other flank, Chambers ended the afternoon having barely put a foot wrong.

He wasn't the only point of focus in a Saints

WEST BROM v SAINTS MATCH REPORT - SEE PAGES 2&3

Saints Spotlight



IN CONTROL:
Luke Shaw on
the ball as
Saints start the
season with a
win over West
Brom.

shirt here, though.

The travelling fans would also have been keen to get a first glimpse of summer signings Victor Wanyama and Dejan Lovren in competitive action for the club.

The pair cost Saints in excess of £20m, and the early indications are that the investment has not been misplaced.

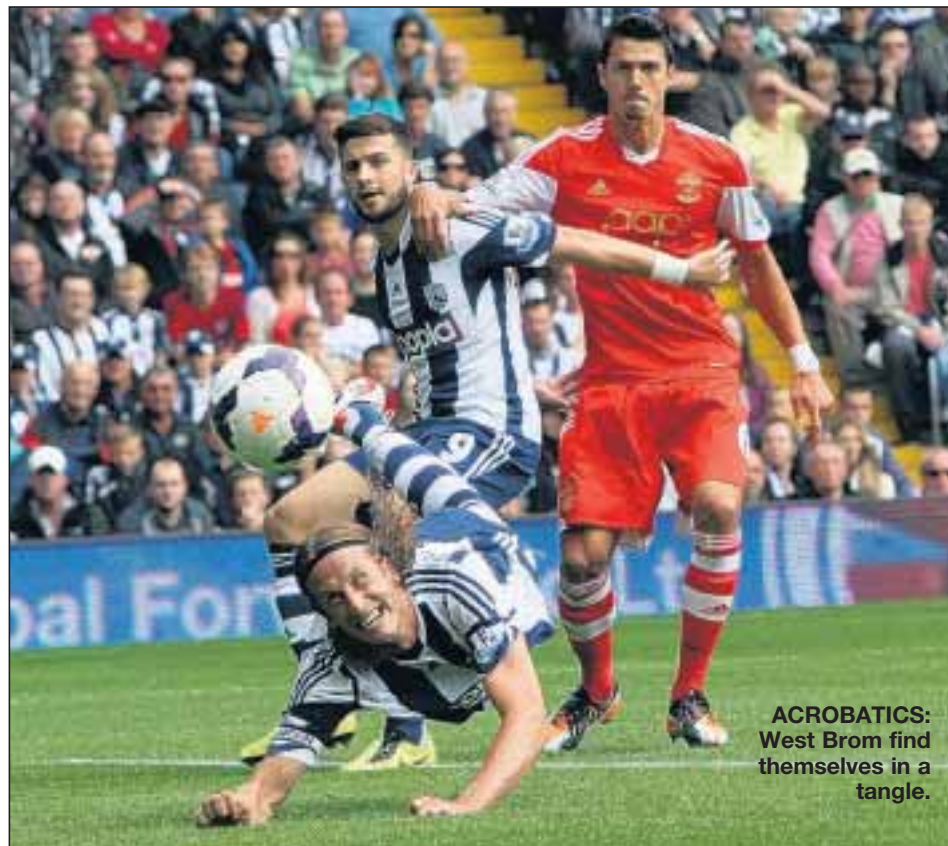
Wanyama was, at times, an immense presence in midfield, resembling some sort of turbo-charged bulldozer, crashing through West Brom's central midfield wall.

Combined the ball-hawking abilities of the more elegant Morgan Schneiderlin, Saints possess a pair who promise to offer opposing teams an almighty obstacle in the path towards their defence.

Lovren, the £8.5m centre-half from Lyon, also enjoyed a strong debut. West Brom's front two of Nicolas Anelka and Shane Long were kept largely in check, and, on the one occasion they did threaten to break through, the Croatian launched himself into a magnificent sliding tackle to deny Anelka a clear route to Artur Boruc's goal.

It was fitting as well that, on a day where Saints put such faith in their own academy, it was one of their products who played an integral part in the winner, as Shaw's clever little burst into the box won the decisive penalty in the final minute.

And, as we all know, Rickie Lambert, the England international, doesn't miss those.



ACROBATICS:
West Brom find
themselves in a
tangle.

Unbeaten Forest are on fire

NOTTINGHAM Forest continued their flying start to the Championship season with a 3-0 victory over 10-man Bolton to preserve their 100 per cent record.

Jamie Mackie opened the scoring after only two minutes, Andy Reid doubled the lead five minutes after half-time and Henri Lansbury made it three in the 65th minute.

Bolton had Darren Pratley sent off eight minutes into the second half.

Watford are second but had to show their battling qualities in the match of the day against Reading at the Madejski Stadium.

Adam Le Fondre (8), pictured below, and Jem Karacan (42) put Reading two up at the break and, although Marco Faraoni pulled one back in the 66th minute, Karacan restored the Royals' two-goal advantage four minutes later.

Watford were not finished, though, and Troy Deeney reduced the arrears with a 76th-minute penalty before substitute Diego Fabbrini rescued a 3-3 draw with an injury-time strike.

Blackpool, Burnley, QPR and Leicester also have seven points, with young striker Tom Hitchcock scoring a last-minute winner on his Rangers debut to give Harry Redknapp's side a dramatic 1-0 victory over Ipswich.

Leicester beat local rivals Derby by the same score, the only goal coming in the 37th minute as a Paul Coutts clearance hit goalkeeper Lee Grant for an unfortunate own goal.

Blackpool thought they would be joining Forest on nine points when Chris Basham gave them an 83rd-minute lead against Middlesbrough but the hosts were rewarded for persistence as Marvin Emnes made it 1-1 with almost the last kick.

Burnley left it late against Yeovil, Keith Treacy (74) and Sam Vokes (79) earning them a 2-0 victory at Turf Moor.

At the bottom of the table, Millwall remain without a point or a goal after James Vaughan's 57th-minute header sealed a 1-0 victory for Huddersfield.

Oscar Garcia earned his first points as Brighton boss in a 1-0 win over Birmingham, Andy Crofts scoring the goal in the 73rd minute.

Barnsley and Charlton both remain without a win this season after the Addicks fought back from two down to secure a 2-2 draw.

The Tykes looked to be in control thanks to a goal in each half from Chris O'Grady at Oakwell, but Chris Powell's men fought back. Substitute Jordan Cousins gave the Londoners a lifeline in the 64th minute and Simon Church pulled them level eight minutes later.

In the early game, a fine solo goal from Ross McCormack earned Leeds a 1-1 draw against Yorkshire rivals Sheffield Wednesday.

Kamil Zayatte had given Wednesday the lead in the 36th minute, with McCormack levelling 13 minutes after the break.



MATCH REACTION - DON'T MISS MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Northants grab their final spot

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE completed their unlikely journey to a first Friends Life t20 final with a seven-wicket win over Essex at Edgbaston.

The Steelbacks had won just three of their previous 22 Twenty20 matches before this season but set up a final clash against Surrey, winners of the second semi-final against champions Hampshire.

An unbeaten 78-run stand between Cameron White and Steven Crook ensured they reached Essex's 168 for five with 11 balls to spare – the highest successful run chase on finals day.

Opener Richard Levi's 57 from 35 balls laid the foundation for a pursuit that had threatened to lose direction before White (36 not out) and Crook (46) stole the game away inside 36 balls.

Following Levi's departure Northamptonshire went 28 balls without a boundary to leave the



FAMILIAR FACE: Surrey's ex-Hampshire pace bowler Chris Tremlett, playing in the other semi-final against his former county.

game poised.

But from there White and Crook hit 12 of the next 21 balls to the ropes in a blistering 21-minute period.

Northamptonshire were left with a tough chase after they dropped dangerous Hamish Rutherford and Graham Napier at opposite ends of the innings, costing them 59 runs in total.

White was the culprit when he put down Rutherford from the third ball of the day, before he had scored, and was immediately punished when Rutherford flicked David Willey's next ball for six.

The New Zealander added a quickfire 36 from 19 balls but even that was overshadowed by Napier late on as he finished unbeaten on 38 from 15 balls.

The all-rounder was relieved on 15 when Northamptonshire skipper Alex Wakely put down a simple chance at mid off.

He was fully made to pay as Napier smacked his next five balls for 21, including consecutive sixes in Azharullah's last over.



GOING DOWN FIGHTING: Sean Ervine hits out with three sixes against Surrey.

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

FOR the second time in three years, Hampshire suffered Finals Day heart-break under leaden Edgbaston skies.

There was no revised Duckworth Lewis target to blame this time though, as the Royals failed to defend a below-par 142-9 against Surrey, who won by four wickets with four balls to spare to book a place in the Friends Life t20 final against Northants.

Zander De Bruyn's 40-ball 41 ensured that Surrey were always in the game after the outstanding Azhar Mahmood had denied Hampshire, as he did at the Champions League in October, by producing the second-best figures recorded at Finals Day (4-1-9-2).

Having hit a career-best 62 against Hampshire less than 48 hours earlier, Zafar Ansari ensured a Surrey win with four balls to spare, his 12-ball 21 including 11 in three balls against Chris Wood in the penultimate over – and the winning runs.

Hampshire got off to a bad start when, after losing the toss, Michael Carberry batted out a Mahmood maiden before he, James Vince and Neil McKenzie all departed during a powerplay that yielded a disappointing 39-3.

Carberry, needing 22 to pass Craig Kieswetter as the tournament's leading run scorer, departed for six in the third over, well caught two-



CRUCIAL WICKET: Surrey Lions Zander de Bruyn celebrates the wicket of Hampshire's Jimmy Adams.

handed by Jason Roy high at cover following a powerful drive against Jon Lewis.

Vince drove former teammate Chris Tremlett for ten in two balls, four through cover followed by a big straight six.

But then he was bowled via his pads by Jade

Dernbach's first delivery at the beginning of the fourth over, which ended with McKenzie trapped lbw for five.

It looked harsh on Hampshire's No 4, Hawkeye confirming that the ball was going down the leg side.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE T20 CRICKET

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Mahmood completed an outstanding powerplay for Surrey (39-3) but, thankfully, Sean Ervine continued his form from Thursday night's YB40 win against the same opponents, hitting a 32-ball 47 (two fours, three sixes) to keep the Royals in the game.

He soon lost Jimmy Adams who, having swept Tremlett for a second six in the fourth over, made a run-a-ball 19 before his off stump was flattened by a De Bruyn yorker.

Ervine's first two sixes, from successive Ansari deliveries, over cover then mid-wicket, loosened the shackles before Dawson (8) drove to cover in the same over, the 13th.

After another violent Ervine maximum, high over mid-wicket against Maxwell's off-spin, Adam Wheeler was lbw, struck on the full attempting to reverse sweep in the same over.

Ervine departed with 21 balls left after putting on 19 with Mascarenhas, Ansari making up for dropping him on Thursday night, by pouncing well at deep square leg.

Set the wrong tone

Chris Wood breathed some life into Hampshire's innings with ten in two balls against Dernbach, tickling four to the fine-leg boundary then pulling a big six next ball.

But he flung his bat skywards in frustration when he was run out at the non-striker's end, after Mascarenhas called a quick single.

Then Hampshire's captain spliced the next ball, an attempted pull against Mahmood, to Maxwell at long-on, ending any realistic hope of a 150-plus total.

Tanvir set the wrong tone with two wides in the first over of Surrey's reply before Hampshire struck twice in seven balls.

Jason Roy pulled Mascarenhas's third ball to deep mid-wicket and Steven Davies was caught by Hampshire's captain at mid-on midway through Wood's first over.

Surrey made 43-2 from the six-over powerplay on but lost captain Vikram Solanki, lbw at the end of the next over, Briggs's first, for a 15-ball 19.

Glenn Maxwell, relishing the chance to remind Hampshire of his talent after being unavailable for Finals Day last year, kept Surrey in the driving seat with a 21-ball 26 before driving Dawson's fifth ball to long-off.

Mascarenhas had kept Hampshire in the hunt

HOLING OUT:
Hampshire Liam Dawson is caught going for a big hit.

Pictures by Chris Moorhouse



with yet another tidy spell (4-0-24-1) and Briggs (4-0-28-1) conceded only four from his final over to leave Surrey requiring 40 from 30 balls.

With Surrey requiring 32 from four overs, McKenzie took a sensational diving catch on the run at backward point when Gary Wilson (15) sliced a drive against the returning Wood.

When the third umpire decided that Azhar Mahmood was run out by the narrowest of margins, without facing a ball, following Dawson's excellent throw from deep cover, the Friends

Life t20 trophy was still in Hampshire's grasp.

Requiring 24 from the last three overs, Surrey were grateful for two more Tanvir wides. The Pakistani recovered well from both to leave 18 needed from 12 balls.

But Ansari, as he often does against Hampshire, broke Royals hearts when he drilled Wood's second ball of the penultimate over for six before driving another boundary to ensure only three were required from the last over.

Big hitter Maxwell in the frame

FORMER Hampshire all-rounder Glenn Maxwell's second unbeaten century in four games for Australia A has strengthened his claims for a regular place in his country's senior side.

The 24-year-old big hitting slow bowler played two Champions League games for Australia prior to the current Ashes series starting. He scored 32 against Sri Lanka and an unbeaten 29 against New Zealand.

There had been talk Down Under that Maxwell should be named in the Ashes tour party after making his Test debut in India earlier this year.

But that never came to fruition and instead he linked up with Australia A for their tour of Sri Lanka after a poor t20 spell with Surrey.

Maxwell, pictured, who started the 2012 English season playing for Salisbury club South Wits, first made headlines when he contributed his highest first class score – an unbeaten 155 – against India A.

That 193-ball knock was overshadowed by the controversial David Warner smashing 193 during Australia's 474-5 declared total. It was obviously a



good batting track as South Africa A responded with 614-7 declared, Dean Elgar making 268 and No 7 Thami Tsolekile contributing an eye-raising 159.

Having celebrated his best-ever first class innings, Maxwell last week struck his best-ever limited overs score.

Going into bat at No 7 against India A in a triangular 50-over tournament match with Australia 122-5, Maxwell's best ever List A score was 61.

A sensational unbeaten 145 from just 79 balls followed, an innings peppered with 18 fours and six sixes.

Maxwell – whose century occupied 66 deliveries – scored his 145 runs from a total of 176 scored while he was at the crease.

He followed that up with 93 off 56 balls in the return against India three days later.

The pitches have been sweet for batting in South Africa and the grounds small, but Victorian coach Greg Shipperd hopes Maxwell is now given a chance to settle in the middle order of the one-day team as Australia builds for the 2015 World Cup.

Shipperd said Maxwell, who has regularly batted at No 3 in ODIs, was "rapidly developing" his off-spin bowling, which should stand him in good stead for future Australian tours."



GOOF DAY OUT: Hampshire fans find something to celebrate at Edgbaston.

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Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

IN-FORM striker Lewis Grabban sealed a memorable victory for Cherries as FA Cup holders Wigan were beaten in a fiery clash at Dean Court this afternoon.

Grabban netted his fourth goal of the Championship season when he capitalised on a defensive error to slot home in the 43rd minute.

Brett Pitman missed a glorious opportunity to double the lead when Scott Carson produced an excellent penalty save to deny the Cherries frontman.

But much-fancied Wigan rarely threatened as an attacking force and their chances were hit when substitute Callum McManaman controversially saw red for his challenge on Pitman.

And despite pushing forward in search of an equaliser, Wigan rarely threatened as Cherries held on with ease for a fine win, providing the perfect response to last week's 6-1 hammering at Watford.

Cherries manager Eddie Howe made two changes to the team which suffered that heavy loss at Vicarage Road last time out. Veteran left-back Ian Harte came in for injured Charlie Daniels (heel), with fit-again striker Pitman promoted from the bench in favour of midfielder Andrew Surman.

UNDERDOGS

Wigan, relegated from the Premier League during their FA Cup-winning campaign last term, named a side packed with big-money signings, top-flight experience and international players.

But despite kicking off as underdogs, Cherries could have been ahead inside the first minute. Released by a pinpoint Ryan Fraser through ball, Grabban got in behind the visiting defence for a glorious opportunity, only for ex-England keeper Carson to block his left-foot shot.

As rain continued to pour on a dank day at Dean Court, Ryan Allsop was forced to tip over a dipping drive when Wigan midfielder James McCarthy tried his luck from distance.

With the conditions deteriorating, the two teams, renowned for their



GOAL: Lewis Grabban was on target for Cherries.

footballing style, both struggled to find a rhythm as a combination of stray passes and constant pressing made for an untidy opening.

Despite Wigan attempting to dictate possession by utilising their extra man in the centre of the park, Cherries steadily worked their way into the match.

And the hosts were unfortunate not to make a breakthrough with a delightful piece of interplay on 24

minutes. Carson showed fine anticipation – then bravery – to claim at the feet of Grabban after a lovely exchange with Pitman had unlocked the Wigan backline.

Harry Arter then attempted to break the deadlock from 25 yards but, under pressure from McCarthy, his ambitious effort sailed over the top of the Ted MacDougall Stand.

Ben Watson, Wigan's match win-

ner in the FA Cup final, was not as accurate with his head as he had been at Wembley as he nodded over after being found by James McArthur's mis-hit volley.

With the tempo building, Fraser opted not to shoot after a James Perch slip had left him with a clear run on the right, but his cross for the awaiting Grabban was cut out by Leon Barnett at full stretch.

Cherries continued to grow into

the game and the club's trademark corner routine almost did the trick when Harte's delivery found Pitman via a stepover, but his ferocious drive was blocked in a crowded penalty area.

But two minutes before the break, Cherries got the goal their improvement had merited. It owed much to an error from Wigan defender Perch, whose backpass served only as a perfect ball for Grabban to seize on, the striker rounding a helpless Carson before coolly rolling into an empty net.

Cherries continued on the front foot after the interval and spurned the chance to double their advantage when Pitman was denied from the spot.

After Harte's powerful volley had forced Carson to parry, Jean Beausejour was deemed to have felled Pitman, with referee Graham Scott having no hesitation in awarding the penalty. But Carson, having played some mind games by hopping up and down his goal-line, leapt to his left to produce an excellent save.

Wigan boss Coyle called on James McClean and McManaman as he looked to his bench for a route back into the contest.

However, McManaman was on the field little more than three minutes as he was sent off in a controversial flashpoint soon after his introduction.

TALENTED

The talented winger threw himself into a tackle on Pitman and with Cherries' players and staff protesting furiously, referee Scott showed the Wigan substitute a red card.

That sparked angry scenes on the touchline as Coyle pointed the finger at Cherries defender Harte.

Despite their numerical disadvantage, Wigan piled forward in search of an equaliser and Cherries were grateful to Marc Pugh for clearing Barnett's header off the line.

Pitman's quick-thinking free-kick was wonderfully inventive but Carson produced a tremendous back-tracking save to keep the Latics in the match.

But that was the last of the goal-mouth action as Cherries comfortably saw out time.

Whittingham's men get their first victory

GUY Whittingham's Pompey got their League 2 campaign up and running with an emphatic 3-0 win over Morecambe at Fratton Park.

Portsmouth took a 19th minute lead when Jed Wallace fired home after good work from Patrick Agyemang.

And the Blues were 2-0 up just seven minutes later when Phil Smith fed ex-Saint David Connolly, pictured right, and he made no mistake with a neat right footed finish.

Pompey suffered a setback just before the break when Andrew Wright was



given his marching orders after a second bookable offence.

However, the decision only seemed to sting Pompey into life again and Whittingham's side added a third before half-time when Connolly's effort was saved by Andreas Arestidou in the Morecambe goal and Agyemang was on hand to slot the ball home.

Morecambe were unable to take advantage of the extra man after the break and Portsmouth held on to record their first win of the new campaign.



FA CUP:

Team Solent's Louie Castles takes on Portchester's Lee Nicholas as the side's did battle in the FA Cup extra preliminary round today. See this week's Echo for more FA Cup news.

Non-league Action

TAKE OFF: Sutton skipper Jamie Stuart takes a tumble over Jai Reason.



Spitfires get off to a flying start

A GOAL by league debutant Yemi Odubade got Conference South title tips Eastleigh off to a winning start against Paul Doswell's Sutton United this afternoon.

Watched by a 682 Silverlake Stadium crowd, the Spitfires edged a dour contest 1-0 thanks to Odubade's 26th minute decider.

The Spitfires had to make a late change when vastly experienced centre-back Chris Todd withdrew injured and ex-Christchurch defender Chris Dillon stepped in for his Conference South debut.

Dillon was joined by fellow summer signing Jamie Collins, Yemi Odubade, Ben Strevens and Stuart Fleetwood in the starting line up.

With suspended manager Richard Hill watching from the stand, Eastleigh were first to hit their stride with Sutton's Tom Lovelock saving low from Jai Reason before stellar summer signing Fleetwood made his presence felt.

Having had an initial shot charged down, Fleetwood looked up and picked out Odubade at the far post,

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

but the striker fired well over.

Sutton were finding it tough to get their attacking game flowing and little was seen of Spitfires' keeper Ross Flitney until he nicked the ball off Craig Dundas's boot after a throw had been headed on.

Sutton's ex-Eastleigh manager Paul Doswell also took a seat in the stand across the aisle from Hill and watched on as his old club took the lead in the 26th minute.

Good work by class act Strevens forced a corner on the left and, although the Us survived Reason's initial delivery, the ball came back to Eastleigh's No 10 to weave his way along the by-line and whip in a cross-cum shot which went in off Odubade.

Flitney solidly punched away a Sam Rent's corner as the Surrey visitors tried to get back into the game, but there was nothing to unduly worry a solid-looking Eastleigh back four in a lively but

less than enthralling first half.

The second half burst to life on 49 minutes when Sutton played a long ball forward and Jamie Taylor was bundled over by Dillon as he burst between Eastleigh's centre-backs. He earned the Spitfires man a booking.

The visitors had more about them at the start of the second half, but they had plenty of defending to do when Eastleigh forced three successive corners with the hour mark approaching.

Dean Beckwith headed the third wide from Glen Southam's flag kick and the Spitfires added to their aerial prowess seconds later when Craig McAllister came on in place of the goalscorer Odubade.

Sutton introduced Dean McDonald for Dean Sinclair eight minutes later, but neither change managed to liven up a somewhat dour second half which, until now had been devoid of chances.

There was a brief flurry of excitement when Dillon headed Reason's corner just wide for Eastleigh before, at the other end, the lively McDonald cut inside and forced a Sutton flag kick which came to nothing.

Lovelock's challenge of Fleetwood on the edge of the 18 yard box sparked optimistic appeals from Eastleigh fans packed behind the goal at the clubhouse end but, for all their wealth of attacking flair, the Spitfires were finding it tough to break through the massed ranks of yellow Sutton shirts.

A chance finally presented itself in the 81st minute when, with Sutton outnumbered on the break, Fleetwood played in McAllister.

Once in the area, the substitute fended off Simon Downer and slid over a perfect pass to Reason, but Lovelock was there to deny him at point-blank range.

With six minutes to go Sutton's Jamie Taylor threaded a shot through which bounced off ex-Eastleigh man Marvin Williams straight into Flitney's hands.

Then it needed solid defending by Eastleigh, who were superbly marshalled by Beckwith, as Williams tried to dig out a shot from McDonald's cross from the right.

But it was too little too late for the Us as Eastleigh held on for a slender opening day win.

How's about that then for a summer of sport succes?

ENGLAND won the Ashes following this week's 74-run win against Australia in the fourth Investec Test at Chester-le-Street to continue a memorable summer for British sport.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at what has been achieved so far - and what is still to come.

LIONS VICTORIOUS DOWN UNDER

Sam Warburton's team achieved what no other British and Irish Lions squad had managed since 1997 - winning a test series in Australia. And they did so in style. With the series tied 1-1 and amid unrelenting pressure, the tourists scored four tries in Sydney en route to an emphatic 41-16 victory over the Wallabies to prove they were back in business as a world rugby force.

MURRAY CONQUERS WIMBLEDON

Andy Murray said before Wimbledon that he was comfortable that he may never fulfil his dream of winning at SW19. He will never have to harbour such worries again, though. Having joined the grand slam winners' circle at the US Open last year, he swiftly ended Britain's tortuous wait for a Wimbledon men's singles champion with an amazing straight-sets victory over Novak Djokovic. The Scot defeated the world number one 6-4 7-5 6-4 to end Fred Perry's 77-year reign as the last British winner of the men's singles title.

ROSE BREAKS MAJOR DUCK

Justin Rose survived a rollercoaster final round to win his first major title in last month's US Open. The 32-year-old Englishman said after his second round at Merion that he knew "deep down" he could win a major, and held his nerve on a dramatic final day, carding five birdies and five bogeys to finish one over par. Tony Jacklin was the last Englishman to win the US Open in 1970 - 10 years before Rose was born - while Nick Faldo was the last to win a major in the 1996 US Masters.

ENGLAND'S ASHES

England ensured a third successive Ashes series win after just the fourth Test of the series in Chester-le-Street. After racing into a 2-0 lead, Alastair Cook's side retained the little urn with a draw in Manchester, before winning them after Stuart Broad set-off a stunning late Australia collapse in Durham. After victory at Trent Bridge, largely thanks to James Anderson's 10-wicket haul, Cook's men showed their class at Lord's with a thumping 347-run win. While Australia dominated at Old Trafford - England were 37 for three on the final day chasing 332 - England found their best when it counted against at Emirates Durham ICG.

MO IS THE MAN AGAIN

Mo Farah was crowned world 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres champion, to go with his Olympic titles from last year, at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. Great Britain team captain Christine Ohuruogu also won gold in the women's 400m as she broke Kathy Cook's 29-year-old national record.

MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS: PAGES 31-39



YOU BEAUTY: Rickie Lambert celebrates his debut goal for England.

Rickie has restored my faith in football

WITH the West Brom game already upon us you'll forgive me if I don't talk about Saints and their prospects for the forthcoming season.

You'll forgive me if, for a second consecutive week, I talk about nothing else than Rickie Lambert.

To be honest I've done little else all week. I'm trying hard to remember the last time I shouted so loud at a TV whilst on my own. I couldn't have written a more fitting story, the man the "experts" had predicted was there to make up the numbers scored the winner, and could have scored a hat-trick.

It's the stuff of dreams.

I joked last week of a film idea called: "Goal Machine: The Rickie Lambert story". But not even I could have written a more apt, fitting tale.

It's Roy Of The Rovers stuff, it's a terrific film in the making.

I'd given up on England.

The fact Matthew Le Tissier got eight England caps and Emile Heskey got 62



England caps tells you all you need to know about England's selection policy.

I wasn't holding out much hope for our man this time either, as Lambert's success is the complete antithesis of the modern game.

Here is a player who received knock backs but never let them grind him down. It's mentioned many times how he packed beetroot, but seldom is it mentioned that he did so to keep his dream alive.

Quite simply Rickie Lambert is an inspiration to all of us. You want something enough, work hard and you can achieve it.

Lambert's interviews afterwards were pure gold, the smile on his face lit up the screen.

I'm a jaded, cynical 48-year-old. I've writ-

ten for the pages of the Echo for 10 years now and for fanzines and websites, etc for 15.

I've seen football become this soulless, cash driven monster; I've seen hopes and dreams trampled underfoot in the search for cash and kudos.

Seldom have I seen such complete and utter joy at one man's triumph. Facebook and Twitter were aflame with views on the Southampton man and, apart from bitter Pompey fans, they all loved him.

Not since Matthew Le Tissier has one man been so adored by Saints fans. A humble man, a hardworking man, a man who showed, ironically enough, the likes of Wayne Rooney there is more to life than money, the next contract, the next endorse-

ment. Rooney may earn more than Lambert but, for me, Lambert's the richest man in town.

Universally loved by the people of Southampton, not just for what he does on the pitch but what he brings to the game off it: honour, respect, hard work and dedication. Every single accolade has been earned.

As I said last week, you can't underestimate the impact Rickie Lambert has had on this club.

His signing was the catalyst that sparked Southampton's dramatic rise up the leagues.

The man is quite simply phenomenal. For me, Rickie Lambert is a man who consistently raises the bar but even I didn't dare to dream he'd reach these heights.

The man they said would struggle in the Championship ended up player of the year and top goal scorer. The man they said would struggle in the Premiership ended up the top goal-scoring Englishman.

The man they said would struggle in an England shirt... well, he went on to win the game in his first appearance.

Maybe that film idea isn't so daft after all!

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



LAMBERT TOUCH OF CLASS

IN what has now become a fixture of the annual football calendar, the international break just days before the season kicks-off made its ill-timed appearance once again this week.

Despite these matches being termed "friendlies", the chances of injury must surely be at a high, coming as it does before the players have fully gained match-fitness.

One only has to look at the intensity shown at Wembley on Wednesday night to see that these matches are hardly just a kick around in the park. This is international football, and apart from the pride of playing for your country there is a World Cup just around the corner that every footballer and their agent has their eyes on.

As we find ourselves less than a year out from football's biggest carnival, I've decided to cast an eye over some of the contenders to see just where they are in their preparations.

I'll start at home, where Roy Hodgson's men were saved their blushes by one of football's great fairytales, Rickie Lambert.

The Liverpool born, Southampton striker notched up an international goal with his very first touch to cap off his meteoric rise from lower league football and hard labour in a beetroot factory to recognition on the international stage.

As gratifying a moment as it was for all involved, it did little to paper over the cracks, as more defensive lapses left the Three Lions with a mountain to climb against the "Auld Enemy".

Joe Hart was once again at fault for the opener and Gary Cahill was outwitted by Kenny Miller, hardly the world-beater that he'll have to face up to next summer.

There were some positives, like the fighting spirit and Jack Wilshere's comfort in the middle of the park, but England

don't really look like solid contenders for Brazil 2014.

Elsewhere it was the World Cup hosts who provided the biggest shock of the night, going down to a Dani Alves own goal against Switzerland.

Having seen their 11 match unbeaten run come to an end, Luis Felipe Scolari was again reminded of the inconsistencies with the current Brazil team, nine of which started the Confederations Cup final win over Spain.

The current world champions had little trouble in seeing off Ecuador, as a slightly experimental side claimed a comfortable 2-0 win, with Santi Cazorla and new Manchester City striker Alvaro Negredo the scorers.

With the wealth of talent at Vicente Del Bosque's disposal, it's difficult to see Spain not finding their way to the business end of the tournament.

Perhaps the performance of the night was by Argentina, who were more comfortable in their victory over Italy than the 2-1 score-line suggests.

Gonzalo Higuain notched up his 26th international goal in the absence of Lionel Messi and laid on another for Ever Banega as the Argentinians look to build toward Brazil.

Finally France and Belgium played a 0-0 draw in Brussels, with the French now going over six hours without a goal. It was the home side that looked the most threatening, but they were not clinical enough in front of goal with both Lukaku and Hazard guilty of missing guilt-edged chances.

Should they find that killer instinct in the final-third, this side has every chance of causing some upsets next summer.

Brazil 2014 is still a long way off for some sides, with the final rounds of qualifying still to come, and a whole season between then and now. A lot can change in football over the course of a season, but for some there are more changes to be made than others.



ROY HODGSON: Has to keep Lambert in squad.



ENGLAND HERO: Saints' star Rickie Lambert celebrates his winner against Scotland.

Saints can spring a surprise

HERE we go again! The Premier League is now under way, so it is time to offer up a few predictions. It is always so difficult at this stage, with the transfer window open for a couple of weeks yet, to determine how clubs will do.

That is particularly true this summer, with big question marks over some of the league's best players, such as Wayne Rooney, Gareth Bale and Luis Suárez.

Much will depend on what happens with these three in the coming weeks.

But, going on what we know for certain, I am picking Chelsea as this season's champions.

Their biggest signing this summer has undoubtedly been José Mourinho, and I am thrilled he is back in the Premier League.

I love their squad. They've got Romelu Lukaku back from West Brom, who looks like a younger Didier Drogba.

André Schürrle and Kevin De Bruyne look excellent, and we are waiting to see if Rooney will arrive.

Manchester City have spent £86m and have strengthened well for new manager Manuel Pellegrini, above. They will be strong runners, and I think they will finish second.

Manchester United need to freshen up in two or three areas, and I don't see them retaining the title.

Tottenham's prospects depend a lot on the future of Bale, but I am excited by their squad, and if the Welshman stays then they are definitely a top-four side, which will push Arsenal into fifth.

At the bottom, I think the three promoted clubs – Cardiff, Hull and Crystal Palace – will head back down, while I'm backing Saints for a top-eight finish and, if things go really well, I think we might even surprise people a bit more than that.

TOP SIX:
Chelsea
Manchester City
Manchester United
Tottenham
Arsenal
Liverpool

I AM 74-years-old now, so I don't often jump out of my chair, but I did just that when Rickie Lambert headed the winner for England against Scotland on Wednesday.

I was so pleased for him, he is such a lovely guy, and you could tell from his celebrations just how much it meant to him.

It was not just his goal, either. His performance impressed me so much – his first-touch, his move-

World Cup, Rickie?

ment, and the way he led the line. He really looked like someone who had been a part of the squad for a year or more.

I don't see anybody in the England set-up who is better than him in that particular role. Andy Carroll is perhaps the most obvi-

ous competition, but I don't think he has enough on the floor or leads the line well enough.

You would be absolutely crazy not to bring Lambert into the squad again now. It would be an absolute disgrace if he wasn't picked, as he has shown more

than enough.

I'm not saying he's going to start every game, but he has to be in the squad.

There is obviously the World Cup in Brazil next summer, assuming England qualify, and, while he hasn't yet booked his ticket on the plane, his performance at Wembley means he is now in the departure lounge, waiting for the call.

Saints Spotlight

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I didn't want to lose again. I remember a couple of years ago I was second and I was just digging in, digging in and making sure I didn't over stride. I kept looking across and you could see in my eyes, just making sure they didn't come after me" - **Mo Farah puts his Daegu demons behind him as he clinches 10,000m gold at the World Championships in Moscow.**

"I am going to try to continue winning championships. I want to be mentioned alongside greats like Pele, Maradona and Muhammad Ali" - **Usain Bolt is far from done with winning after claiming 100metres gold in Moscow, his sixth world title to go alongside his half dozen Olympic titles.**

"You always carry those scars with you. He (Bradley) always jabbed at me a little bit about having one of these (the Wanamaker Trophy) in his house, and thanks for giving it to him and all that stuff. And now I've got one, too. It's pretty neat to come back and win a PGA to be honest with you" - **US PGA champion Jason Dufner banishes memory of losing play-off at the 2011 event to Keegan Bradley after squandering a five-shot lead with four holes to play.**

"He knows you guys are there probably. He hasn't had enough of the mass media recently and wanted to get his face on TV" - **England manager Roy Hodgson, tongue firmly in cheek, raises an eyebrow as he explains Wayne Rooney's early appearance for training on Monday.**

"It's a big game for Scotland, don't forget. You don't think I'd send England a fit player, do you?" - **Manchester United manager David Moyes, speaking after the Community Shield, on Wayne Rooney's fitness for England's friendly against Scotland.**

"When we started the series we expected a tough battle and it's been that, even though the scoreline says 3-0" - **England team director Andy Flower savours a hard-fought Ashes triumph after his side took an unassailable lead following the fourth Test.**

"When he's hot, he's surface-of-the-sun hot and yet again today he's won a Test match for England" - **spinner Graeme Swann pays tribute to Stuart Broad after his Ashes-clinching match figures of 11 for 121 at Chester-le-Street.**

"At the moment, we are being outplayed" - **captain Michael Clarke offers a brutally honest Australian perspective.**

Lambert's England fairy tale

ROY Hodgson saluted a "fairy tale" debut by Southampton striker Rickie Lambert who scored with his first touch in international football as England defeated Scotland 3-2 in a pulsating friendly at Wembley.

The England manager saw Lambert score the winner with a bullet header, less than three minutes after coming off the bench in the second half to replace Wayne Rooney.

And Hodgson admitted 31-year-old Lambert could have played himself into his World Cup qualifying squad with his spectacular 25-minute cameo at Wembley.

"It's satisfying that it was won by a fairy tale goal from Rickie Lambert," said Hodgson. "He's been a breath of fresh air while with us, so happy to be part of the squad. What a wonderful story that he crowned it with the winning goal."

"He could have gone away with the match ball, with his shot against the post and another that had to be palmed away. But maybe he has to be happy with one goal and he'll save a few others for a later date."

Asked whether it would be tough to leave him put of the squad for the matches against Moldova and Ukraine next month, Hodgson added: "I guess so. Obviously there might be a bit more competition next time."

"Daniel Sturridge is hopefully back playing after 45 minutes behind closed doors today. Andy Carroll is not far from fitness. We'll see in the next three weeks, but he won't be being struck off my list very lightly. It's up to him to go out for Southampton and do what he did last year with his goals and assists."

England were stunned when

Morrison gave the Scots an early lead but ex-Saint Theo Walcott equalised before half-time. Scotland, however, came back to go ahead with a sparkling strike from Miller before headers from Manchester United striker Danny Welbeck and Lambert sealed the triumph.

Hodgson said: "Defensively there are a few holes in our game we'd like to see disappear but it was a very positive performance."

"We took plenty of risks with the ball, got players forward, created many more opportunities and dangerous situations than in past games. "That's very positive. Maybe the most positive is to come from behind. When you have to chase games and take the responsibility for making the game, trying things, there's always a risk you could get caught on the counter like with Miller's goal."

Hodgson was pleased with the performance of Rooney who played longer than expected, having recently recovered from a shoulder injury and not having played any pre-season games.

Asked about Rooney's performance, Hodgson said: "Good. This is his first competitive game of the year. Under normal circumstances you wouldn't be expecting that of a player in mid-August against Scotland, but David Moyes and the people at United have

been fantastic. They've almost welcomed the fact he wanted to play and I wanted to play him.

"He got 67 very valuable minutes."



SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS AND VIEWS

Saints Spotlight



GET IN: Rickie Lambert heads in the winner against Scotland, above, and is mobbed by his England teammates.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Just sick of negative a*****s sat behind a keyboard with a pitiful life mate [thats all]" - **golfer Lee Westwood**, in one of a series of angry responses to criticism on Twitter after his failure to challenge at the US PGA Championship.

"Words can't describe my anger season ruined on media profile & not current athletic form" - **long-jumper Chris Tomlinson** hits out after Olympic champion **Greg Rutherford**, selected ahead of him for the World Championships despite a lingering hamstring problem, fails to reach the final.

"Ultimately I'm still British number one as it stands and still jumped further multiple times than him this year. If you're looking at somebody better who's failed the distance that year but won more head-to-heads and still has a major title behind them, it's a no-brainer" - **Rutherford** defends his selection.

"If that's the only moment I'm going to have in an England shirt - hopefully not - I couldn't have wished for it to have been any better" - **Rickie Lambert** after marking his England debut with the winning goal from his first touch in international football in the 3-2 victory over Scotland.

"I was trying to play it cool as if it wasn't bothering me but deep down I wanted to scream. It was brilliant" - **Lambert** reflects on his time in the England camp.

"My body just can't do it anymore. I've already been through a lot of injuries since the beginning of the year. I've been on the tour for so long, and I really pushed through and left it all during that Wimbledon. I made my dream a reality and it will stay with me forever, but now my body just can't cope with everything" - **Marion Bartoli** explains her decision to retire less than six weeks after winning Wimbledon.

"Maybe we are different than European people and people from different lands. We consider ourselves, like normal, standard people, we just live boys with women, girls with boys... it comes from the history" - **Yelena Isinbayeva** stands up for Russia's controversial laws on homosexuality.

"It blows my mind that such a young, well-travelled, well-educated woman would be so behind the times. She said 'normal, standard people' in Russia? Guess what - a lot of these people with Russian citizenship are normal, standard homosexuals. They deserve rights too" - **US runner Nick Symmonds**, who dedicated his world 800m silver medal to his gay and lesbian friends, responds to Isinbayeva's comments.

Saints Spotlight

IS IT OPENING DAY

THE last time Saints faced West Bromwich Albion in the first game of the season they were about to embark on their 1976 FA Cup winning campaign.

Now, 37 years later, Mauricio Pochettino's men travel to the Hawthorns for their opening Premier League fixture.

And they will be eager to emulate the success of that famous campaign when Bobby Stokes secured a 1-0 victory over Manchester United at Wembley.

The 3-0 win over the Baggies was one of only seven season openers that the Hampshire club have won since their first top flight campaign in 1966/67.

In comparison to the cup winning season, the most expensive player on the club's books was Peter Osgood – a £250,000 purchase from Chelsea.

This summer the club have spent a staggering £21m, with the signing of Croatian, Dejan Lovren for £8.5m from Lyon and Kenyan Victor Wanyama for £12.5m from Celtic.

For the majority of fans, the first top flight season, will be either a distant memory or an event that happened long before they were born.

Here the Sports Pink's Peter Howard looks back at those opening day clashes.

1966/67

Not long after the England team lifted the World Cup at Wembley, Saints took to the hallowed turf at The Dell to take on Manchester City in a 1-1 draw.

Terry Paine, fresh from the England World Cup squad, blasted home an unstoppable drive on the stroke of half-time before City equalised after the interval.

New £55,000 signing Ron Davies from Norwich, who died in May this year, debuted up-front and despite a goalless game he went on to be the leagues top scorer with a whopping 37 goals, that included three hat-tricks and six more in cup competitions.

Although Saints were prolific in front of goal the defence leaked a league worst of 92 goals meaning The Dell club was 19th of the 22 teams in the division that Manchester United won.

1967/68

Scottish international Jimmy Gabriel made his debut in a 3-0 drubbing by Newcastle United at the start of 1967/68.

Paine missed a penalty and Davies had a header cleared off the line but three second half goals won the game for the Magpies.

Manager Ted Bates secured the services of striker Davies for two more years and once again impressed with 28 goals and was joint top scorer with George Best in the league and bagged four in the 6-2 rout of Chelsea.

Bates' side beat eventual champions Manchester City 3-2, in their second match of the season, and went on to finish 16th.

1968/69

This campaign began with a 3-1 defeat against that season's eventual title winners Leeds United at The Dell.

An own-goal by United gifted the home-side the lead within a minute of the game starting, before Saints were undone by indecision at the back.

Bates' team made amends for the defeat by beating stalwarts Liverpool 2-0 in the second match.

The free-scoring Davies once again supplied a healthy total of 20 goals and the defensive partnership of John McGrath and Gabriel meant Saints were more water tight, only conceding 43 goals compared to the 93 and 83 they let in the first two terms.

Bobby Stokes smashed in three goals in four games including two on his debut in the 5-1 win over Burnley. Saints achieved seventh place in their highest ever league finish, meaning they reached Europe for the first time.

1969/70

Once again Saints failed to win their first game. This time West Bromwich Albion beat them 2-0 at The Dell.



FLASHBACK: Saints v West Brom on the opening day of the 1975/76 season.



LEFT: Peter Osgood takes on Chelsea's Ron Harris in 1974.



RIGHT: Action from Saints' clash with Bristol Rovers from 1978.

Bates, who had been Saints manager for 14 years, became the longest serving boss when Man United's Sir Matt Busby moved upstairs.

And Saints trounced United 4-1 at Old Trafford in their third match of the season for their first win, Davies bagging all four goals that day.

In the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, Norwegian side Rosenborg beat Saints 1-0 in their first ever European outing, before they put two past them in the return leg at The Dell, setting up a tie with Portuguese side Vitoria de Guimaraes, who they thrashed 8-4 over two legs.

Saints eventually bowed out of Europe in the third round to Newcastle, on the away goals rule.

The brief tour of the continent was the only highlight of an otherwise disappointing year, finishing 19th in the league.

1970/71

In a repeat of their Division 1 debut season Saints faced Manchester City in their opener and once again drew 1-1 at The Dell.

Ron Davies remained in red and white, after interest from Manchester United and Liverpool, to score in the City match.

Midfielder Brian O'Neil made his debut in that game

after signing for a record £75,000.

Despite eventually finishing seventh and qualifying for Europe, Saints failed to win any of their first four games until winning 1-0 against Ipswich Town with Davies securing the victory at The Dell.

1971/72

For the sixth season running Saints failed to win their season opener, this time losing to newly promoted Sheffield United 3-1 at Bramall Lane.

Ted Bates made no new signings in anticipation of a European campaign and his side were duly knockout in round one to Spanish side Athletic Bilbao with an aggregate result of 4-1.

In somewhat of an unforgettable season, Saints were thrashed 8-0 by Everton and smashed 7-0 by Leeds, as well as having a completely winless February and March.

It wasn't forgettable, however, for Brian Clough who orchestrated Derby County's meteoric rise to lift the division trophy.

1972/73

Captain Terry Paine missed out for the first time in 15 seasons with a suspension as his team drew 1-1 with

Derby County at home.

Defender Francis Burns made his debut after signing from Manchester United.

Ron Davies was in the twilight of his career, meaning Mike Channon's 16 goals were very important to keep Saints in the league.

The draw signalled an ongoing trend with Saints drawing the most games in the league with 18 draws in total.

1973/74

A 1-1 draw against QPR welcomed Lawrie McMenemy to the club as "team manager-designate".

St Mirren's prolific centre-forward Ally MacLeod arrived for £40,000 but didn't make his debut until January, Peter Osgood also joined for a record fee of £250,000.

It was the first time the top flight saw three teams relegated and three promoted. Unfortunately for Saints, who finished 20th in a 22 team league, they fell through the trap-door as the first third-to-bottom club to be relegated.

1974/75

The Saints struggled in their return to the second tier after an eight season absence.

Saints Spotlight

JOY OR DESPAIR?



ABOVE: Paul Rideout fires in a header against West Ham in 1988, watched by fellow striker Colin Clarke.

RIGHT: More goalmouth action from Saints' clash with West Brom on the opening day of the 1975/76 season.

It was a 3-3 draw with Hull City that kicked off the campaign with Osgood scoring and Paul Gilchrist bagging a brace.

In McMenemy's first season in full charge the club slumped to 13th in Div 2.

1975/76

A 3-0 thrashing of West Brom ended an eight year spell without an opening day win.

Channon slammed in a brace and Nick Holmes was on target, with Peter Rodrigues making his debut after signing on a free from Sheffield Wednesday.

Saints had their best ever season at The Dell, winning 18 and only losing once to finish sixth.

This was hugely overshadowed by the incredible FA Cup win at Wembley, Bobby Stokes scoring the only goal against Manchester United, to secure the cup for the only time in the clubs history.

1976/77

After the high of winning the cup, Saints lost 1-0 to Liverpool in the Charity Shield before losing 2-1 to Carlisle United at home, Peter Osgood scoring for McMenemy's team.

This was a sign of things to come with Saints having

to wait until the third month of the season for their first win, beating Fulham 4-1 at The Dell.

The run of four losses and three draws included a 6-2 thrashing by Charlton.

After the win at Fulham, Saints won four on the trot scoring 15 goals and conceding three amongst the results a 6-2 win at Wolves.

Compared to the previous season it was fairly boring for the supporters and they eventually finished ninth in Division Two.

1977/78

After three seasons in the second tier, Saints were finally promoted after finishing runner-up to Bolton.

They started the season slowly when they drew 1-1 with Brighton & Hove Albion at home.

Only five members of the 14 players that won the FA Cup remained – only Mel Blyth, David Peach, Ian Turner, Holmes and Osgood were left.

Most notably Mick Channon left for Manchester City. McMenemy brought in Phil Boyer as a direct replacement and two centre-backs, Chris Nicholl from Aston Villa and Mike Pickering from Barnsley.

That trio made their debuts in the Brighton match and were all influential in the club's promotion back to the

top flight. The former Norwich, Bournemouth and York partnership of Ted MacDougall, who returned 14 goals, and Boyer, who smashed in 17, helped Saints to score a scorching 70 goals in that season.

1978/79

In their first game back in the top flight, McMenemy's outfit were beaten 3-1 by Norwich City with MacDougall scoring Saints only goal.

Among the new faces that season were Yugoslav international Ivan Golac and Derby County's Terry Curran.

Ted Bates became a director and George Reader, who was at the club one way or another since the 1920s as a player, director or manager, passed away.

Nonetheless Saints re-established themselves as a top flight club with 14th place finish with Liverpool lifting the championship.

1979/80

This season will be remembered as the year Saints secured the services of Kevin Keegan from Hamburg. The twice European player of the year was signed for a record £400,000.

Saints had a fantastic season, opening with a 1-1

draw with Manchester United and were eighth come the end of the campaign.

Phil Boyer was prolific with a return of 23 goals in 43 games.

1980/81

With the arrival of Keegan, The Dell side snapped up their highest ever football league finish (sixth) and got yet another crack at European competition.

Saints were unbeaten in their first five games, starting with a 2-0 win over Manchester City in which Mick Channon bagged a brace and Keegan and Mike McCartney made their debuts.

McMenemy's side were the second highest scorers in the league with 76 goals, only beaten by Ipswich Town with 77.

1981/82

This was the season when McMenemy was approached by Manchester United and turned the job down, in what he described as "the most agonising decision of my life".

Nevertheless, come the start of the season it was business as usual and Saints lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest in the opener.

At the midpoint Saints were topping the table, leading the division for longer than any other club between January and late March but finished a comparably disappointing seventh.

Yet, as conciliation, the Red and Whites did claim a UEFA Cup place.

1982/83

England goalkeeper Peter Shilton defused the departure of two key players, Channon and Keegan, the former leaving for Newcastle KB United in Australia on loan and the latter moved to the Premier League namesake.

Starting the season with a 1-0 defeat to minnows Coventry City, Saints descended to 14th in the league.

Youngster Danny Wallace was top scorer with 12 goals and the defence performed better but without the attacking prowess of Keegan Saints scored 18 less goals.

McMenemy was set to make a lot of changes for the next season and freed seven players, among them Nicholl, Ivan Katalinic, Bob Lee, David Puckett and Mark Whitlock.

The arrivals included a little known apprentice called Dennis Wise, Ken Armstrong from Kilmarnock and journeyman Frank Worthington from Sunderland.

1983/84

It was the year of Saints highest ever finish and it started with a 1-0 win over Nottingham Forest. Wallace grabbed the goal in a game that Armstrong and Worthington made their debuts.

Saints, incredibly, finished as league runners up and were just three points behind winners Liverpool on 77 points.

An FA Cup run to the semi-final may have distracted from valuable league matches, among them a defeat to lowly Nottingham County.

1984/85

Off the back of the club's best ever season the next one started slowly, the first match was lost 3-1 to Sunderland.

It took another four matches to get a win, Williams scoring in a 1-0 victory over Spurs.

Joe Jordan made his debut in a red and white shirt, in the opening day defeat and went onto score 12 goals in 34 games.

For the fourth season out five Saints reached European competition after finishing fifth in Division 1.

1985/86

The centenary year for Saints was a grim year for English football as a whole, following the Heysel Stadium disaster when Liverpool and Juventus fans clashed English clubs were banned from European competition.

Chris Nicholl took over as manager from the departing McMenemy, with Tony Barton arriving as assistant.

Saints began the season with a 1-1 draw with Newcastle United – Dave Puckett scoring the goal.

Nicholl's side then failed to win until early September, when they finally won 3-0 against Manchester City, Saints eventually finished 14th.

1986/87

Saints got off to a blistering start with 5-1 win over QPR. New £400,000 striker, Colin Clarke, from

...continued on page 16

Saints Spotlight

IS IT OPENING DAY

...from page 15

Bournemouth bagged a hat-trick on his debut and Nick Holmes and Danny Wallace rounded off the scoring.

That year was the beginning of the reduction to 20 teams in the top flight, over the next two seasons 19th place would therefore be relegated.

Charlton Athletic were the first to be demoted, Saints finished 12th.

This season can also be remembered as the year Matt Le Tissier signed his first professional contract at the age of 18, scoring six goals in 24 games.

Le God, as he went on to be known, made his debut in a 4-3 defeat Norwich City.

1987/88

A 2-2 draw against Manchester United kick off the campaign in which McMenemy's legacy started to fade.

Peter Shilton, Holmes, Mark Dennis and Dave Armstrong were all moved on; George Lawrence was also sold to Millwall.

The replacements consisted of keeper John Burridge, defender Kevin Moore from Oldham and Graham Baker made a return from Manchester City.

After a topsy-turvy summer Saints managed a 12th place finish. Notably Alan Shearer made his first appearance for the club.

1988/89

Saints opened their top flight account with a 4-0 smashing of West Ham United.

Russell Osman made his debut in that match along with striker Paul Rideout, who bagged twice. Le Tiss also scored with Glenn Cockerill grabbing the other.

Despite three wins on the bounce at the beginning of the season, against the Hammers, QPR and Luton Town, Saints slumped to 13th in the league.

1989/1990

Saints were the second highest scorers in this campaign, banging in a scorching 71 goals, Le Tiss grabbing 20 of them and Rod Wallace slamming in 18.

But it was a disappointing opening fixture as they went down 2-1 to lowly Millwall at The Dell.

Nicholl's team then steamed their way to a seventh place finish.

1990/1991

A 1-1 all draw with Aston Villa started the penultimate Division 1 campaign before the Premier League, Le Tiss popping up with the goal.

And, after finishing 14th, Nicholl's time in charge was up and was sacked. After reaching the semi-final of each cup competition but finishing just once in the top half of the league his time was up.

1991/92

Finally, after much debate, Saints' board had their new man, Ian Branfoot.

He lost his first game in charge, an exciting 3-2 loss against Tottenham at The Dell, Alan Shearer and Richard Hall scored but a brace from Gary Lineker and Gordon Durie goal cancelled out the Saints double.

1992/93

For a second year running Saints began the season by facing Spurs at The Dell, the only time in the club's history when they faced the same club on the opening day in consecutive years.

This time it was a goalless draw, in which, Kerry Dixon and David Speedie made their debuts. The pair were brought to the club to defuse the exit of Shearer, who was sold to newly promoted Blackburn Rovers for a British transfer record fee of £3.5m.

They were partners at Chelsea but failed to make an impact as Saints finished 18th, with Dixon only scoring two and Speedie not getting any goals.

1993/94

Ian Branfoot penned a new three-year contract and signed Simon Charlton from Huddersfield for £250,000 along with Colin Cramb and Paul McDonald for a combined price of £150,000.

Charlton made his debut on the opening day against Everton, which Saints lost 2-0.

The second season of the Premier League saw The Dell club finish 18th with Le Tissier scoring just over half of Saints goals (49 in total).

1994/95

A 1-1 draw, with eventual champions Blackburn



ABOVE: Egil Olsenstad is congratulated after netting against Coventry in 1999.



LEFT: Matt Le Tissier in his debut season for Saints in 1986/87.

GOAL: Kevin Phillips in action against Leicester in 2003.

Rovers, kicked off the season with Nicky Banger scoring.

Bruce Grobbelaar arrived from Liverpool and more significantly, the services of Matt Le Tissier were pinned down for another three years.

Another 20 goals by Le Tissier helped Saints finish 10th.

1995/96

Alan Ball signed defender Alan Neilson from Newcastle £500,000 but the manager soon departed for Manchester City.

Dave Merrington took over from Ball and in his first game in charge was an enthralling 4-3 defeat to Nottingham Forest with Le Tissier scoring a hat-trick.

Saints hovered close to the relegation places for the whole season and narrowly avoided the drop on goal difference.

1996/97

Following 11 months in charge and a manager of the month award, Dave Merrington was sacked.

Graeme Souness was then unveiled, who had just arrived back in England after managing Galatasaray.

A 0-0 draw started the season, along with two ties and five losses; it meant Saints were yet to win in 1996/97 after seven games.

The first win came in late September, with a 4-0

thrashing of Middlesbrough. Matt Oakley and Gordon Watson were on the score sheet along with Le Tissier, who netted a brace.

Saints struggled again and finished 16th with Le Tissier top scoring with 13 goals.

1997/98

Graeme Souness left as manager and was eventually replaced by Stockport boss Dave Jones.

Another poor start to the season saw Saints lose three on the trot. The first match was a 1-0 defeat to Bolton Wanderers.

Lee Todd and new keeper Paul Jones made their debuts that day.

Even though Saints spent most the campaign around the drop zone, they managed to pull off a 12th place finish.

1998/99

Saints finished just above the drop zone, beginning their season with seven defeats and two draws, starting out with 2-1 defeat against Liverpool.

New signings Scott Hiley, Stuart Ripley, Mark Hughes, Wayne Bridge and James Beattie made their debuts in that match with Egil Olsenstad scoring.

The second fixture was a horrifying 5-0 defeat to eventually relegated Charlton Athletic.

Despite an appalling start Saints scraped survival,

scoring just 37 goals, with only Nottingham Forest, who finished bottom, scoring less.

1999/00

A 1-0 win over Coventry City got this campaign under way, as Dean Richards made his debut with Olsenstad scoring the games only goal. Saints finished 15th overall that season.

Marian Pahars top scored with 13 goals in 31 appearances.

Dave Jones was replaced by Glenn Hoddle as Saints hovered above the relegation zone.

2000/01

Construction of St Mary's began on June 1 and Glenn Hoddle signed former Manchester City striker Uwe Rosler, after his Berlin club went bankrupt, and Aston Villa's Marc Draper arrived.

Rosler and Draper made their debuts in the opening 2-2 draw with Derby County, Hassan Kachoul bagged a brace.

Saints finished 10th with James Beattie top scorer with 11 goals, Le Tissier ensured the supporters would remember The Dell in style, as he volleyed a stunning shot to set up a 3-2 win over Arsenal in the 89th minute.

2001/02

Saints' first ever fixture at St Mary's was 4-3 defeat to

Saints Spotlight

JOY OR DESPAIR?



GET IN: Rickie Lambert celebrates scoring in Saints' opening day clash at Man City in 2012/13 and, inset, David McGoldrick nets against Cardiff in 2008.

Mauricio Pochettino's former club Espanyol. The inaugural league match at the new ground was 2-0 defeat to Chelsea. That result was part of a three match losing streak at the start of the season. It took until late November for Saints to secure victory at St Mary's. A 1-0 win over Charlton, Marian Pahars getting the winner. Stuart Gray was replaced as manager by Gordon Strachan in late October.

2002/03

Saints kicked off their 10th year in the Premier League with their 100th game, a goalless one against Middlesbrough.

Le Tiss had just had his testimonial and was the highest profile departure for the Saints that season. Michael Svensson joined countryman Anders Svensson at the club in a £2m move from Troyes. A wonderful FA Cup run to the final at Cardiff's millennium stadium and a 8th place finish rounded off a superb season for Saints.

Despite losing 1-0 to Arsenal through Robert Pires' goal in the cup final, Saints qualified for the UEFA Cup.

2003/04

Kevin Phillips and James Beattie scored as Saints drew with Leicester City on the opening day.

Two goalless draws against Birmingham and Leeds followed, before a shock win over Manchester United as Beattie smashed in an 88th minute goal at St Mary's.

The UEFA Cup defeat to Steaua Bucharest 2-1 on aggregate meant Saints failed to make the group stage of the European competition.

A respectable 12th place rounded off a year where Gordon Strachan was replaced by Paul Sturrock.

Sturrock, who was in charge from mid-March, was then sacked at the end of the season and replaced by Steve Wigley.

2004/05

Relegation. That is all that you need to know about this season.

And it started with 2-0 defeat to Aston Villa, Darius Vassell and Carlton Cole scoring to down Saints.

A 3-2 win over Blackburn Rovers in the second match was a false dawn as they failed to win any Premier League match until they beat Pompey 2-1 at St Mary's in November.

Dexter Blackstock and Kevin Phillips were on target in the derby match.

After being in the Premier League since day one, Saints bit the dust with Harry Redknapp at the helm after he replaced Wigley, who only lasted just 14 matches.

Going down with them was Crystal Palace and Norwich.

2005/06

Harry Redknapp, was still in charge of the club following relegation from the topflight, but two days before Christmas he was gone, replaced by former Hearts, Derby and Ipswich boss George Burley.

A goalless draw with Wolves began Saints' first second tier season in almost 30 years.

A 12th place finish in a somewhat turbulent year with the change of management was a respectable position.

2006/07

Saints faced Derby County on the first day in 2-2 draw and in a 2-1 defeat at Pride Park but also in the play off semi-final at the end of the campaign.

In the 2-2 draw, Gareth Bale and Bradley Wright Phillips scored but goals from Seth Johnson and Paul Peschisolido pegged Burley's side back.

Saints managed to sneak into the play-offs ahead of Preston North End.

And that set up the semi-final against Derby, who had finished third.

Andrew Surman put the Saints 1-0 up in the first leg at St Mary's before two Steve Howard goals sealed victory for the Rams.

The return leg was far more dramatic, a brace from

Jhon Viáfara and a Grzegorz Rasiak goal very late on secured extra time and eventually penalties. Leon Best and Inigo Idiakez missed their spot kicks to end the supporter's hopes of a Premier League return.

2007/08

A 4-1 defeat against Crystal Palace started a fairly torrid season for Saints.

The Polish pairing of Marek Saganowski and Grzegorz Rasiak played up front, with the former bagging the only goal for Saints. George Burley became the new manager of Scotland, which made way for Nigel Pearson.

A forgettable 20th place confirmed that Saints were no longer a side heading for a quick return to the top flight.

Pearson's reign did not last long as he was released from his job at the end of the season.

2008/09

In an all round woeful season for Saints, Jan Poortvliet became the first ever foreign manager of the club.

His first league match was a 2-1 defeat against Cardiff City at Ninian Park, David McGoldrick scored the only goal for Saints.

Poortvliet only lasted at St Mary's until February as academy coach Mark Wotte took over control.

Saints' slide down the football league continued and relegation was confirmed in a 2-2 draw with Burnley at St Mary's.

2009/10

A ten point deduction and a makeshift team made the start of Saints' first League One season since 1959/60 a difficult one.

Although, Rickie Lambert joined from Bristol Rovers for £1 million and made his debut in the 2-0 League Cup win over Northampton in which he scored a goal.

Seven games into the new season Alan Pardew's side got their first win; a 2-0 victory against Yeovil Town, two Rickie Lambert penalties secured the win.

The season opener was a 1-1 draw with Millwall, youngster Matthew Paterson, now at Aldershot Town, started the scoring before Nadjim Abdou equalised for the Lions.

Despite the deduction of points – Alan Pardew steered his side to the edge of the play-offs and a day out at Wembley where they lifted the St Johnstone's Paint Trophy by winning 4-1 against Carlisle United.

2010/11

Despite eventually being promoted, Saints started their 125th anniversary season losing to Plymouth Argyle 1-0 at home in their second season in the third tier.

Some dogged defending by the Pilgrims paid off as Luke Summerfield popped up to slide the ball past Kelvin Davis.

Ryan Dickson made his full debut at left wing against his former charges and with Rickie Lambert not even making the team, Lee Barnard and David Connolly led the line.

Saints returned to the Championship with Nigel Adkins at the helm, after he replaced Pardew in September.

2011/12

Back in red and white, Saints proved their doubters wrong by smashing Leeds 3-1 at St Mary's.

Captain, Dean Hammond, Adam Lallana and David Connolly grabbed the goals.

That win ignited a promotion campaign, with Saints staying in the top two for the whole season.

For a second season running fans took to the pitch to celebrate promotion, this time, however for a return to the Premier League.

2012/13

After a seven year absence from the Premier League, Saints were handed tough opening fixtures against Manchester City, Tottenham United and Arsenal.

A 3-2 defeat against City confirmed that the St Mary's side could perhaps hold their own in the Premier League. Steven Davis and Rickie Lambert put Saints ahead in that match.

The same score line against Manchester United as Robin van Persie smashed in a hat-trick, his final goal in stoppage time, frustrated supporters, who were eager to get three points on the board.

Saints were then thrashed 6-1 by Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium, raising questions over their defensive abilities.

SOUTHERN
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SAINTS 2013/14



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Saints Spotlight

SAINTS FIXTURES 2013/14

AUGUST	23: Arsenal(a)	11: Hull (7.45pm)(a)
17: West Brom(a)		22: West Ham(a)
24: Sunderland(h)		
31: Norwich(a)		
SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	MARCH
	1: Chelsea (4pm)(a)	1: Liverpool(h)
	3: Aston Villa (7.45pm)(h)	8: Crystal Palace(a)
	7: Man City(h)	15: Norwich(h)
	14: Newcastle(a)	22: Tottenham(a)
15: West Ham (4pm)(h)	21: Tottenham(h)	29: Newcastle(h)
21: Liverpool(a)	26: Cardiff(a)	
28: Crystal Palace(h)	28: Everton(a)	
OCTOBER	JANUARY	APRIL
5: Swansea(h)	1: Chelsea(h)	5: Man City(a)
19: Man United(a)	11: West Brom(h)	12: Cardiff(h)
26: Fulham (5.30pm)(h)	18: Sunderland(a)	19: Aston Villa(a)
	28: Arsenal (7.45pm)(h)	26: Everton(h)
NOVEMBER	FEBRUARY	MAY
2: Stoke(a)	1: Fulham(a)	4: Swansea(a)
9: Hull(h)	8: Stoke(h)	11: Man United(h)

JUDGEMENT

Is Poch the man to take Saints to the next level?

SAINTS have always been known as something of a traditional club, but with Mauricio Pochettino at the helm the public face is changing rapidly.

It seems almost inevitable these days that with foreign ownership comes foreign managers, and with top flight football foreign players.

Though Saints still have a much stronger English core than many other Premier League teams, the days when even they were home grown are dwindling.

It is the way football clubs are going these days, and the appointment of Pochettino appears to be Saints taking another step in the same direction.

A foreign manager brings many things to a club.

Executive chairman Nicola Cortese has a certain style.

It's suave and dapper and slick.

In truth, it's not very in keeping with the community in which the club sits, but it's his way, and he is making that the much-vaunted 'Southampton Way.'

Pochettino is an extension of that.

He has those Latin American looks, that slight streak in him which warns he might well have an edge if you cross him.

At the moment, at least, he speaks through an interpreter, though for his own

credibility that will surely going to come to an end now.

Somehow it all feels very fashionable.

What will concern fans more than the outside perception of their club, is what influence

Pochettino will have on the team.

That's where it gets interesting this season.

When he took over following the shock sacking of Nigel Adkins, there was little time to stamp his mark on the side.

SAUVE:
Nicola
Cortese.



JUDGEMENT TIME: The coming season is key for Mauricio Pochettino.



Pochettino was thrust into a Premier League season in charge of a side on the up, but still with work to do.

He had the squad Adkins left him, and in truth not all that much changed.

The personnel and formation largely remained intact, and the major difference was a slightly higher tempo, slightly higher up the field pressing game being worked in.

In truth, though, even the results stayed the same.

Pochettino got things the right way round – during his honeymoon period he rode the crest of the wave of improvement that Saints were already on under Adkins and got the results Saints needed to survive.

Not only that, but the wins were against impressive teams and largely at home, which all helps public perception and fan acceptance.

After that period, the season tailed off a little and a run of six games without a win until the end of the campaign has been largely glossed over.

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SaintsSpotlight

TIME IS HERE

In his first months in charge, Pochettino managed Saints for 16 games, achieving four wins and seven draws.

That sort of points haul, and their eventual finishing position, was about the trajectory they were on, so it's unlikely there was much change there.

But, and here's the significant bit, he wasn't brought in to do a job last season.

Cortese surely knew, like the majority of fans and observers, that Adkins looked capable of keeping Saints up at the time of his sacking.

Pochettino was not being parachuted in to save Saints, he was being brought in for the future.

The second half of last season was about him bedding into the club, the culture, and getting a good look at his squad.

This season is judgement time for Pochettino.

With a whole summer to work with the team, and a full transfer window to do with his squad as he sees fit, Pochettino is really beginning life proper as the Saints manager come August 17.

This will be his team, playing in his style.

As for what we can expect, it's going to be interesting to see because it will probably be about nuances.

The in vogue Premier League formation of 4-2-3-1 will likely remain, as will the majority of the major players as there hasn't exactly been a flood of summer arrivals.

The differences will again be subtle.

There were issues Pochettino was wrestling with towards the end of last season.

They were small things, like:

- How far advanced to push on the full backs and how to cover them;
- Whether he can get a creative force like Gaston Ramirez playing off of the main striker;
- How and when to play out from the back, and whether to always go through the central midfield pair.

It is these things that he will have been working on this summer, and so we are unlikely to see anything jaw-dropping.

But Pochettino has more, very important qualities, to bring to all of this.

As with all modern day bosses, he will be on the case when it comes to man management, and that is probably where he will succeed or fail.

If Alan Pardew changed the mindset at Saints from a losing one to a winning one, and Adkins took it on to believing they could always compete at the next level up, then Pochettino is charged with arguably the hardest task of all.

As Saints aim for European placings in the league this season, he has to convince the players – more than anybody else – that they are not only capable of it but that they belong there.

If he can instil that kind of mindset, then Southampton could change even more dramatically in the next couple of years.

PREMIER LEAGUE 2012/13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man United	38	28	5	5	86	43	89
Man City	38	23	9	6	66	34	78
Chelsea	38	22	9	7	75	39	75
Arsenal	38	21	10	7	72	37	73
Tottenham	38	21	9	8	66	46	72
Everton	38	16	15	7	55	40	63
Liverpool	38	16	13	9	71	43	61
WBA	38	14	7	17	53	57	49
Swansea	38	11	13	14	47	51	46
West Ham	38	12	10	16	45	53	46
Norwich	38	10	14	14	41	58	44
Fulham	38	11	10	17	50	60	43
Stoke City	38	9	15	14	34	45	42
SAINTS	38	9	14	15	49	60	41
Aston Villa	38	10	11	17	47	69	41
Newcastle	38	11	8	19	45	68	41
Sunderland	38	9	12	17	41	54	39
Wigan Athletic	38	9	9	20	47	73	36
Reading	38	6	10	22	43	73	28
QPR	38	4	13	21	30	60	25



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Saints Spotlight

Young squad is developing fast

SAINTS' Under-21 side enjoyed an undefeated pre-season campaign.

The development squad took a trip to the north-east of the country this summer, allowing them to prepare properly while construction work continued at the club's training ground and take on some strong opposition.

While there, they beat their Middlesbrough and Newcastle counterparts and drew with Sunderland.

There were also victories against local sides Sholing and Eastleigh, as well as Brighton Under-21s.

A Saints XI, which featured many of the development team's players, also drew 3-3 at Welling.

Winger Omar Rowe, 18, was perhaps the star of the summer, scoring seven times.

For the most part, the under-21 side was made up of youngsters, although the fixtures against Eastleigh and Welling saw a number of out-of-favour senior players take part.

Saints U21 pre-season:

Sholing (a) W 4-1

Team: Johns (Britt), Young (Chambers), Stephens (Mugabi), Turnbull (Stephens), Targett (Colmer), Isgrove (Rowe), Gape, Reed (Sinclair), Moore (Curtis), Rowe (Branker), Sinclair (Seager).

Goals: Sinclair (2), Isgrove, Rowe.

Middlesbrough U21 (a) W 3-0

Team: Britt (Johns), Young, Mugabi, McCarthy, Targett (Colmer), Flannigan, Reed, Gape (Curtis), Moore, Rowe (Branker), Sinclair (Seager).

Goals: Rowe (2), Reed.

Sunderland U 21 (a) D 0-0

Team: Cropper (Britt), Young, Mugabi (Colmer), McCarthy, Targett, Curtis, Flannigan (Branker), Gape

(Reed), Moore (Sinclair), Rowe, Seager.

Newcastle U21 (a) W 2-0

Team: Johns (Britt), Young, Mugabi (Colmer), McCarthy, Targett, Curtis (Gape), Reed, Flannigan, Moore, Rowe, Sinclair (Branker).

Goals: Rowe, Flannigan.

Eastleigh (a) W 1-0

Team: Britt, Young, Martin (McCarthy), Mugabi (Targett), Colmer, Curtis (Reed), Gape, De Ridder (Sinclair), Forte (Rowe), Barnard (Lee), Sharp (Moore).

Goals: Lee.

Welling (a) D 3-3

Team: Cropper, Young, Mugabi, McCarthy, Targett (Colmer), Curtis (Gape), Moore, De Ridder (Branker), Sinclair, Lee (Seager), Forte (Rowe).

Goals: Seager (2), Curtis.

Brighton U21 (a) W 5-1

Team: Cropper (Britt), Young, Stephens, Turnbull, Targett, Reed, Gape (Curtis), Moore, Rowe, Sinclair, Seager (Flannigan).

Goals: Rowe (2), Moore, Reed, Sinclair.



MAGNIFICENT SEVEN: Omar Rowe, right.

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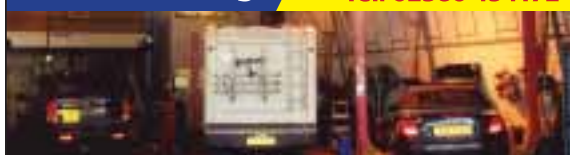
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Saints Spotlight

BORUC TO CARRY ON WHERE HE LEFT OFF HIS FIRST SEASON



NUMBER ONE: Artur Boruc in action at Tottenham last April. Bottom right: Kelvin Davis.

How quickly some things change in the world of football.

This time last year nobody had considered Saints would attempt to sign a keeper well into his 30s, who was without a club, to become their new number one.

Nowadays we take it for granted that man, Artur Boruc, is the established first team keeper.

Saints were obviously looking around for somebody to provide genuine competition to Kelvin Davis.

For whatever reason, Nigel Adkins appeared indecisive as to whether Davis was good enough to play in the Premier League again, having used him so much in the lower divisions.

A multi-million offer for Birmingham's Jack Butland was turned down, so Saints started the season with Davis between the posts.

We all know what happened to Saints as they struggled to adapt to life in the top flight during a tough opening run of games.

Davis was one of the unfortunate players who seemed to get some of the blame, largely unfairly, heaped at his door.

He did concede 14 goals in his first four games, but none of them were solely down to him and he did save two spot-kicks in those games as well.

The fact Adkins did seem to have made up his mind didn't help much, and was only exacerbated as the manager – a former professional goalkeeper himself – drafted Paulo Gazzaniga into

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

the side.

The Argentine youngster had been brought in from League 2 club Gillingham as one for the future, but suddenly found himself in the cut and thrust of Premier League action, and in a struggling team.

Somewhat predictably, he had some good days and some very bad ones.

With neither a clear first choice, something needed to be done. Queue the arrival of Boruc, who made his name at Glasgow Celtic with over 200 league and cup appearances in almost five years after arriving in Scotland in 2005.

The Polish international got off to a tricky start as Saints continued to ship goals – conceding four on his debut at West Ham – and he was investigated over allegations that he threw a water bottle at fans during his home debut against Tottenham.

He was cleared to play again, though, and during the second half of the season became a regular.

With no further newcomers in the goalkeeping department this summer, the same three men will compete for one place again.

Boruc is likely to begin the

season as first choice with Davis as chief understudy and Gazzaniga waiting in the wings.

With Boruc aged 33 and Davis 36, it wouldn't be a surprise if Saints decided to strengthen in that area next summer.

Or even sooner if there is an injury or things go particularly badly for one, or both, of the highly experienced pair.

But, for now at least, Mauricio Pochettino will surely be hoping to decide on a number one and stick with him. He followed that

plan with Boruc last season and it's hard to imagine him deviating from it again.



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Saints Spotlight

WANYAMA SIGNING IS

DID YOU KNOW?

James Ward-Prowse and Jay Rodriguez both made 11 sub appearances in the Premier League last season – 12 fewer than Reading's Adam Le Fondre

Saints have only had two red cards in their last 55 league matches – both coming in the 3-0 loss to WBA last April, when Gaston Ramirez and Danny Fox saw red

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

ONE of the tough things about footballing progress is that it doesn't leave room for sentimentality.

It can be a cruel business.

Saints are looking for progress, and inevitably that means change.

It means new faces coming into the side, which in turn results in the reliable and recognisable making way.

That might very well be true this season, to some extent, in the midfield.

The £12m signing of Victor Wanyama was a statement of intent from Saints, and had an eye on progress.

Wanyama has proved to be a versatile player, but is primarily seen as a powerhouse defensive central midfielder.

You imagine, therefore, he will be competing for one of the two places in front of the back four – assuming Mauricio Pochettino sticks with his 4-2-3-1 system.

With the fee Saints have lavished on him, he will be going straight into the team to start the season.

All very well and exciting, and Saints might well suggest a sign of progress.

But something has to give for Wanyama to start.

If he is to begin the campaign in a defensive midfield role, that means either Morgan Schneiderlin or Jack Cork won't.

It feels so harsh to be saying that, but it is the truth.

Schneiderlin is likely to be safe.

Deservedly, he was last year's *Daily Echo* player of the season after a wonderful campaign.

He is a hugely important influence on the Saints side, not only for having become such a complete player but because of his range of passing.

However, Schneiderlin, below, was not able to hit the heights he did last season until Cork came back from injury.

It is absolutely no coincidence that Saints' season turned around entirely the moment he was back in the team.

Saints collected a meagre four points from the ten games Cork missed at the start of the season.

They banked 37 from the 28 games he did appear in.

Cork and Schneiderlin formed an excellent partnership and it was around that the success grew.



MAKING WAY? Will Jack Cork lose his place to Victor Wanyama?

It is Cork, though, whose place in the team looks most threatened by the arrival of Wanyama.

Saints did need more cover in that role, and with injuries and suspensions, and Cork's versatility to be able to figure elsewhere on the pitch, he will surely get plenty of chances.

But after the year or two he's had, he may well have thought he was safe.

Beyond those three, James Ward-Prowse continues to battle for a central midfield berth.

Having been the surprise starter on the opening day at Manchester City last season, he put in some decent shows.

They got ever more infrequent

in terms of starts, though, and in looks even further back.

That's a shame but at least there is only the one rule – Luke Shaw, for example, is a cheaply-priced imported and can at times edge out the promise.

Ahead of the two-comes the attacking striker.

Cork may well drop Steven Davis when it comes to circumstances.

The Northern Irishman is expected to play one of the more defensive midfield roles, but his understudy in that department is not yet clear.

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Saints Spotlight

S SO HARSH ON CORK



Adam Lallana, of course, can play across the three positions.

His first season in the Premier League was good without being exceptional and you fancy he may well have a little extra spring in his step this time out.

Jason Puncheon is starting to look like a useful horses-for-courses type player.

He had some red hot spells of form last season, and a period where he dipped a little and found himself on the bench.

That might be the case again.

Whatever, he does add something different to the mix.

Guly do Prado is able to operate in any of the roles, or as a striker if required, though knows he has to keep his work rate high to command a place in the team.

Youngsters Lloyd Isgrove and Calum Chambers are also on the very fringes of the squad. Which just leaves the conundrum that is Gaston Ramirez.

There is little doubt that, ideally, Pochettino would like to get Ramirez into his side on a regular basis, particularly at home when Saints are likely to be doing a lot of the pushing forward.

But there is an obvious problem.

Nothing to do with Ramirez's ability, which is not in doubt and nor should it be at £12m. Instead, it's to do with whether he can fit the mould of a Pochettino-type player.

With the best will in the world, Ramirez is not the type of player whose game is based on high tempo pressing and work rate.

He is a crafty and skilful creative force, who can also contribute the occasional goal.

His game is not about chasing down, it's about dropping into holes and collecting the ball to feet.

As such, he really needs to be specially accommodated to get a place in the team, so that depends on Pochettino getting others to do the running for him.

There are times when that seems alright and others, particularly against the big guns, when you know you might come under enormous pressure.

Then Pochettino is likely to feel he needs a full team of work horses.

But without playing regularly it's hard for Ramirez, and the side with him in, to get any rhythm going.

It's not an easy puzzle for Pochettino to solve, and in truth why there have been so many clubs in Italy having a look at Ramirez with a view to a bid.

They can see the problem at Saints and so figure he might be available.

Saints want creativity, but for Pochettino it will be weighing up the cost of it.

There is a very strong argument for Ramirez being around.

Ultimately, he is a plan B to the high pressing game.

But whether Pochettino is prepared to compromise for that to happen will be fascinating to see.



KEY FIGURES:

Victor Wanyama left, and Adam Lallana, right.



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proof that at the top occasional exception to or example - that high-d ready-to- play talent young, inexperienced

man central midfield trio behind the main

aw inspiration from comes to adapting to

and midfielder was the two central defence but was only used as a partment, having made

himself a valuable asset further forward.

His work rate was very important to Saints, particularly under Pochettino who wants those players further forward to implement his high pressing game.

It is they who have to work so hard to be in the faces of the opposition defence, not allowing them time to settle on the ball.

But, of course, when the ball goes over them they are still expected to be getting back into shape quickly.

There is a whole host of competition for the attacking places.

Jay Rodriguez was primarily used across the three spots rather than as a striker, and to great effect. He proved very dangerous playing off of Rickie Lambert, but also was adept in both wide roles.

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Saints Spotlight

Euro adventure seems optimistic

SAINTS can improve on their finish from last season – but talk of European qualification is premature.

After that terrible start last time out, Saints proved they have what it takes to compete at the top level.

Given they didn't start with unbelievable momentum and then dry up, in fact it was largely the opposite, suggests they won't suffer the infamous second season blues.

Mauricio Pochettino has to stamp his mark on things, and of course there is a challenge to motivate players who have proved themselves now and have generally been handed some very nice contracts as a result.

Overall, they could sneak into the top

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

half of the table come the end of the campaign.

Talk of European qualification looks a little overly optimistic, though.

An upper mid-table finish would be a great result – showing real progress and a steady progression if they want to make that push for 2014/15.

Of course, it is hard to second guess all this, writing these words before the transfer window closes.

But, without a huge investment, it's hard to see which two of Chelsea, Manchester United, Manchester City, Arsenal, Tottenham and Liverpool Saints will realistically finish ahead of.

In terms of the league, for the first time in a long time all three promoted clubs may go straight back down.

There are also a few other poor teams who are destined to struggle who could be relegated – Sunderland being the obvious candidates.

At the top, Jose Mourinho's return to Stamford Bridge and a few cute signings might spark a Chelsea renaissance.

It could also be a good season for Arsenal, assuming they sign Luis Suarez, right.



Adam Leitch's predictions 2013/14

- 1 Chelsea
- 2 Arsenal
- 3 Man United
- 4 Man City
- 5 Tottenham
- 6 Liverpool
- 7 Norwich
- 8 Everton
- 9 West Ham
- 10 **SAINTS**
- 11 Newcastle
- 12 Swansea
- 13 West Brom
- 14 Fulham
- 15 Aston Villa
- 16 Stoke
- 17 Cardiff
- 18 Hull
- 19 Sunderland
- 20 Crystal Palace

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Saints Spotlight

TOUGH TACKLING MORGAN

FROM the man who couldn't tackle to the best defensive midfielder in the Premier League ...

It's been quite a few years for Morgan Schneiderlin.

The French youngster had a season he will remember forever as he made his top flight bow and bagged the vote of the fans as he won the Daily Echo Player of the Season award.

It was a fitting tribute for a fine campaign that cemented Schneiderlin's position as one of the brightest young talents about.

It also marked quite a turnaround.

When Schneiderlin joined Saints in 2008, he was a teenager moving from France for the first time. And he was arriving at a Championship club.

Former Saints chairman Rupert Lowe is not popular with fans, but even his harshest critics would have to begrudgingly accept that he made a great call with Schneiderlin.

It was Lowe who drove through the deal when the club didn't have a manager.

However, the Schneiderlin that arrived is a pale shadow of the one Saints fans see before them now.

Schneiderlin's talent and ability was never in doubt.

From the first moment he stepped onto the pitch, his calm and composure on the ball was clear for all to see.

His range of passing was magnificent.

However, there was an element missing in his game, and the spotlight shone upon it.

That element was the defensive side.

It was a rare sight to ever see Schneiderlin make a tackle, let alone be a bustling central midfielder, winning the ball to then use it.

In the Championship, he was in a struggling young team, without the necessary back up to help him out and Saints were relegated.

The next season he was struggling to get a foothold in League One, with the extra physical demands of that division making life even tougher.

Fortunately for Schneiderlin, he had Alan Pardew as his manager.

Pardew saw the promise in



FLASHBACK: Morgan Schneiderlin arrives at Saints in 2008, with then boss Jan Poortvliet

Schneiderlin, but knew he had to work on the defensive element of his game.

And work him he did.

Schneiderlin was transformed.

"He was the one saying to me to improve on my defensive skills," said Schneiderlin in an interview where he discussed the influence of Pardew on his game.

"He was the one who was telling me 'come on, you need more tackling.' So, thanks go to him and his words every day saying that to me."

Schneiderlin never looked back. He was transformed into a tough tackling defensive central midfielder, but one who also retained that awesome range of passing.

The stats don't lie and by the time he arrived in the Premier League he was pretty much the complete player.

Last season Schneid-erlin won

possession in the middle third of the pitch at least 22 times more than any other player, was top of the list of average interceptions per game (with 3.9) and second in average number of successful tackles per game (with 3.9, only behind Liverpool's Lucas Leiva on 4.1).

At Wigan and at home to QPR – both under Mauricio Pochettino – Schneiderlin made an astonishing 10 interceptions per game.

In addition, he was the highest passer in the Saints side (51.1 passes per game) and recorded a passing accuracy of 85.2 per cent throughout 2012/13 from almost 2,000 passes.

Only eight players attempted more passes last season in the top flight, led by Arsenal's Mikel Arteta with 2,750.

Topping that this season will be tough, but Schneiderlin has surprised before.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ex-Saint Kevin Davies is one of three players sharing a Premier League record amount of bookings – 97. Paul Scholes and Lee Bowyer are the others.

Saints midfielder Guly was one of 14 Brazilians to play in the Premier League last season – more than any other South American country.



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Saints Spotlight

Poch has big scores to settle

MAURICIO Pochettino will have a few scores to settle with Jose Mourinho when Saints face Chelsea this season.

The two managers have faced each other four times in Espanyol v Real Madrid La Liga encounters.

And on every occasion Pochettino, right, finished on the losing side.

In fact, he is still waiting for one of his teams to score against a Mourinho side.

In 2010/11, Pochettino's Espanyol lost 3-0 at Real and 1-0 at home – despite Madrid having keeper Iker

Casillas sent off in the second minute of the latter game.

The following season, Espanyol were caned 4-0 at home by Mourinho's men and 5-0 at the Bernabeu – new Napoli striker Gonzalo Higuain grabbing five goals in the two wins. Pochettino also suffered a double defeat in 2011/12 when he came across a Malaga side managed by new Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini.

Both times Espanyol were beaten 2-1. Pellegrini's first game as Malaga

boss was in November 2010, at Espanyol.

On that occasion he made a losing start as a first minute goal from Javi Marquez gave Pochettino victory.

Pochettino and Pellegrini had also faced in each in 2009/10 when the former was in charge of Real Madrid.

Madrid won both games 3-0 that season.

Pellegrini's first win over the Saints boss had come in 2008/09 when his Valencia side triumphed by a single goal.



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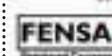
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Saints Spotlight

A QUESTION OF SAINTS ...

JUST for fun, how much can you remember about Saints' previous Premier League campaigns?

1 Which striker came off the bench to score in three successive Premier League games in 1992/93?

2 Which former England international made his Saints debut in a 3-3 draw against Sheffield United in October 1993?

3 Which foreign striker scored on his first three Premier League starts – all wins – for Saints in September and October 1994?

4 Which former England international was named Saints' player of the season for 1995/96?

5 Which three keepers made their Saints league debuts in the 1996/97 season?

6 Saints beat Everton 2-1 in March 1998 despite playing almost an hour with only ten men. Who had earlier been sent off?

7 Which two future England internationals made their Premier League debuts on the same day for Saints in August 1998?

8 Who scored the only goal when Saints last started a Premier League season with a win, at Coventry in August 1999?

9 Who was the Saints keeper who went kept seven successive league clean sheets between January 13 2001 and April 2 2001?

10 Who was Gordon Strachan's first cash signing as Saints boss?

11 Who pooped Manchester City's party by scoring the Saints winner in the last ever league game played at Maine Road in May 2003?



MARIAN PAHARS: The Latvian ace wheels away after scoring against Liverpool in August 2000. But which other Saint also netted as Saints came from 0-3 down to grab a point?

12 Which Saints defender scored an own goal on his Premier League debut for the club at Chelsea in May 2004?

13 Who scored the winner for Saints in Steve Wigley's only Premier League success in 14 games, against Portsmouth in November 2004?

14 Against which club did Gaston Ramirez score his first goal for Saints?

15 What incredible event happened at a Saints league game on March 24 1993?

16 Which former England striker cost Saints £750,000 and was seen as Alan Shearer's replacement in 1992, but only scored two goals and was released on a free?

17 Which striker, plucked from the third division, scored his first two Saints goals at Nottingham Forest in April 1997 after coming on as a sub?

18 What incredible event happened at Saints' home game against Leicester on December 13 1997?

19 In August 1998, Charlton's Clive Mendonca scored a Premier League hat-trick past which Saints player after keeper Paul Jones had been sent off?

20 Which Saints sub keeper saved a Kevin Phillips penalty in December 1999 after Paul Jones had gone off injured?

21 Saints came from 0-3 down with 16 minutes left to draw 3-3 with Liverpool in August 2000. Marian Pahars scored twice, but who else netted for the hosts?

22 Which visiting striker scored a hat-trick at The Dell in Saints' first game following Glenn Hoddle's resignation?

23 Who scored the first ever league goal at St Mary's in August 2001?

24 Who scored his only Saints league goal in the 3-2 home win over Arsenal in November 2002?

25 Against which club did Claus Lundekvam score his first Saints goal in April 2004?

The answers (no peeking!)

1 Nicky Banger, 2 Peter Reid, 3 Ronnie Ekeblad, 4 David Beasant, 5 Neil Moss, 6 Ken Monkou, 7 Wayne Bridge, 8 Egil Olsen, 9 Paul Jones, 10 Brett Ormerod, 11 Michael Svensson, 12 Martin Cranie, 13 Kevin Phillips, 14 Everton, 15 Matt Le Tissier saw a penalty saved by Forest's Mark Crossley, his only failure

Delgado, 25 Wolves. Hasselbaink (Chelsea), 24 Augustin Stewart (Ipswich), 23 Jimmy Floyd Moss, 21 Tahar El Khalef, 22 Marcus was making his Saints debut, 20 Neil in a 2-1 success, 19 David Howells (who scored his only competitive goal for Saints 17 Michael Evans, 18 Francis Benali from 12 yards for the club, 16 Kerry Dixon;

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Non-league News

Win doesn't impress Alex

MANAGER Alex Pike was disappointed with Gosport Borough's final pre-season performance – despite it ending with victory over Weymouth.

Goals by former Winchester City and Eastleigh duo Andy Forbes and Danny Smith were enough to edge a 2-1 win as Borough fine-tuned their preparations for their debut Skril Conference South campaign.

"We have had some highs and lows in this pre-season, but we certainly haven't finished with a bang like I was expecting us to," said Pike.

"For the first 20 minutes we killed Weymouth by getting the ball to (ex-AFC Totton winger)



Mike Gosney, but all of a sudden we stopped doing it. "I was disappointed with some of the partnerships against Weymouth and it makes you wonder how they will fare

against superior opposition such as Dover Athletic (today).

"We will be working hard on the training ground with Cats (assistant boss Mick Catlin) and (coach) Shaun North.

"It is all about knowing the way to play and getting ourselves organised."

Forbes struck after five minutes against Weymouth, controlling a long ball and sweetly chipping ex-Eastleigh teammate Jason Matthews.

With Simon Evans, Michael Walker, Kyle Critchell and Jamie Symes struggling for fitness, the injury-hit Terras borrowed Gosport's young ex-Fawley and Eastleigh centre-back Rob Flook for the afternoon and he helped frustrate his Borough teammates by clearing a Jamie Brown header off the line.

Weymouth levelled through Mark Ford before Smith met Sammy Igoe's cross with a bullet header.

Terras boss Brendon King reflected: "It was not a bad performance considering we had so many missing.

"Michael Walker is recovering from a hernia operation, so he was out, as was Nathan Walker, who was suspended.

"(Ex-Saint) Kyle Critchell also missed out with a trapped nerve in his back, while Jamie Symes has injured his groin.

"Luckily, Gosport manager Alex Pike was happy to help us out with a centre-half and I was delighted with how things turned out.

"We played some really good stuff at times and, on another day, we might have got a draw."

Brock target top half under new boss Pat

JOHN Pyatt says Pat McManus has earned his chance to manage in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

After achieving his ambition of leading Brockenhurst back to the Wessex top flight last season, Pyatt has moved upstairs as director of football and handed the reins to the ex-Q&K Southampton and Winchester City reserves boss.

"Pat deserves his chance at this level," said Pyatt. "He was loyal to Queens Keep for a long time and he gave them an extra season when they promised floodlights and so on, but it didn't materialise and they couldn't go into the Wessex League.

"I spoke to him last year about coming across, but he went to run Winchester's reserves.

"I've known Pat years through business and football and he talks a lot of sense.

"I know his family well too – his brother Eugene runs Bush Hill – and Pat's a very genuine lad on and off the football pitch.

"Pat's brought in Tony Patten to work with him and we've still got Ade Holman as physio and kitman and Geoff Sim does a bit of goal-keeping coaching with Scotty (Scott O'Rourke).

"It's important I don't get involved with team selection and all that, but I'm around to make sure we've got the players we need for all positions."

It was Pyatt who was responsible for attracting prolific former Wimborne, Poole and Bournemouth Poppies goalscorer Scott Joyce to Grigg Lane.

"I've known Scotty for years in and out of football and I've always badgered him to come here and he's always turned me down," he laughed. "But now he's thought: 'as

you're stepping aside John, I'll come!"

After six years at the Grigg Lane helm, Pyatt felt the time was right to stand down.

"I've got a young son who's just turned two and you know when it's right. I've got no qualms about it," he said.

"I was still quite vocal when we played at Hamble (Follands Sports) the other night, but that's just in my nature. I'm Brockenhurst through and through.

"It'll be good this year and I'm looking forward to it.

"We won't do ourselves any injustice at all in the Wessex Premier. We've only lost two players – Darren Ritchie, who's got half his family at Lymington Town, and James Vinton who's gone back local with Hamble, which is fair enough.

"We've got enough here to finish in the top half.

"Harry Jeffries, who joined us three-quarters of the way through last season for title run-in, has resigned and he's brought with him (ex-AFC Bournemouth youth midfielder) Brad Magookin.

"Pat's brought in two or three himself like Lewis Gundry, Dan Smith and Ben Penfold (all from Winchester City) and we've got defender Ross Lloyd back with us. We need quite a few players because, with no reserve side, we're going to be stretched."

Looking forward to the new campaign, Pyatt said: "It's going to be a good league this season with Sholing and Winchester coming down and crowds will be up.

"I'm not a great lover of Friday night football because I like tradition, but it's good for gates because you get representatives from other clubs watching you who wouldn't normally come."



SETBACK: Mark Barker holds off an Alresford player on Saturday as Brockenhurst suffered their first defeat after two opening draws back in the Sydenhams Wessex top flight. Left: Brockenhurst's Ross Lloyd holds off a challenge.



Sholing on 'learning curve'

BOURNEMOUTH Poppies may have set a trend by 'parking the bus' at Sholing last week.

With Dave Diaper's Sydenhams Premier title favourites chock-full of firepower, the quandary for opposing clubs will be whether or not to venture out of their defensive shells against the Boatmen and risk a hammering.

And, having suffered a 6-0 beating at Bemerton Heath Harlequins just three days prior their trip to Portsmouth Road, Poppies were in no mood to succumb to another heavy defeat.

They did get beaten – piped by a 33rd-minute Tyrone Bowers penalty following Lewis Burgis's lunge on Barry Mason – but the 1-0 scoreline was a surprise to many who had forecast a landslide Sholing win.

Vaughan's charges set out to frustrate the Boatmen without offering much in the final third at the Silverlake Arena.

But the visiting boss had no regrets over adopting such a defensive approach – even though Poppies left Portsmouth Road empty-handed.

Vaughan reasoned: "If we had set our stall out any other way, we could have got a hammering. We had a go in the last 20 minutes and it was nice to see Sholing wasting time in the corners at the end."

It wasn't the most enjoyable of nights for Vaughan's opposite number Diaper, but the Sholing boss had a certain amount of admiration for how Bournemouth executed their game plan.

"They played one up top and just defended and were difficult to break down," he said. "But, to be

fair, they did it quite well. They're quite a big team, a bit like a Southern League side at the back, and they made life difficult for us."

Lethal marksman Lee Wort, tipped to score goals galore this term, got little joy from Poppies, prompting Diaper to throw on the physical presence of new player/coach James Taylor with 13 minutes to go.

But that backfired just seven minutes later when debutant Taylor was shown a straight red card for allegedly raising his arm.

"We only had ten men for the last ten minutes or so and Poppies pushed another couple of players forward," said Diaper. "They were quite dangerous from set-pieces but they didn't produce much else and their goalkeeper Sean Lillington made some really good saves. It was a learning curve for us."

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Hill: Starting late 'not fair'

RICHARD Hill believes the Skril Conference South season should have kicked off a week earlier than it did.

By his own admission, the Spitfires chief has become "bored" over recent days, frustrated that the Football League season kicked off on August 3 – a full fortnight before Eastleigh finally got their 2013/14 campaign under way at home to Sutton United today.

"I'm bored because the main show, the Football League, has started and the sideshow is still kicking its heels," said Hill earlier this week.

"Our season should have started a week ago."

Now that they've finally kicked a ball, Conference South sides will scarcely stop for breath between now and the end of August.

Eastleigh travel to Bath City this Tuesday and Basingstoke Town next Saturday before

entertaining south coast rivals Havant & Waterlooville on Bank Holiday Monday (August 26).

They then hit the road again on August 31 to face Boreham Wood.

"The league will say they're packing in the games early to

make sure we fit them all in, but they wouldn't have had to do that if we'd started the season sooner, said Hill.

"Everyone was ready to go last week and, had we kicked off then, we could have played four games in 17 days as opposed to four in ten.

"Not only that, we're the only side in the division to be playing nine of our first 15 games away from home.

"I've checked and everyone else has got seven home and eight away or vice-versa. We've got six and nine. How can that be fair?"

With the likes of Eastleigh, Ebbsfleet, Sutton and Dover attracting high-calibre players to the Conference South, Hill thinks Step 2 clubs have earned the right to be treated more like professional outfits.

"We've signed players like Ben Strevens, Stuart Fleetwood and Yemi Odubade, Ebbsfleet have signed Stacy Long, Sutton have Jamie Taylor, Dover have Nathan Elder and there are former League players like Dean Holdsworth and Lee Bradbury managing at Chelmsford and Havant & Waterlooville," he said.

"We've done our bit by attracting people of that quality and the league needs to keep their side of the bargain (by doing what it can to make life easier for clubs)."

It's not all doom and



RALLYING ROUND: Mark Osman, above, is on the ball during AFC Totton's reunion match between their 2007 FA Vase final side and an AFC Totton Guest XI. Left: Mike Gosney in action.



AFC TOTTON have been going through turbulent times in recent months but it's not all doom and gloom at the Testwood Stadium. With the blessing of the executive committee, Stags follower Sean McGlead has called together a number of ardent fans to help him launch an official AFC Totton Supporters' Club.

From this group of individuals, McGlead has appointed an interim committee consisting of himself (chairman), Skip Matthews (vice-chairman), Sonia Masterman (general secretary), Paul Jeffries (membership secretary) and Claire Wood (treasurer).

The supporters' club will run via membership with a set of rules already drawn up and an AGM planned for the near future.

Membership will initially cost £5 per year and all paying members will have the right to vote for a committee that will represent them going forward.

A Facebook page has been created and the new club will soon have their very own website.

McGlead was part of a group of Totton fans who toyed with the idea of starting an official supporters' club back in 2008.

However, with the Stags no longer fortunate to have the level of financial backing they had then, he believes the time is now right to get one up and running.

"In my view a supporters' club is not just about fundraising," he said. "It's about bringing the fans together to make us even more united than ever before. And, with our situation being

as it is, we need to be just that.

"We want every supporter to feel as if they really are part of their club and we want to have plenty of fun at the same time.

"The supporters' club will evolve over time and I am sure it will grow to become a major part of AFC Totton in future years.

"One thing I am also keen to see happen is to have a member of the supporters' club on the main AFC Totton executive committee.

"We are currently in discussions with the football club about this and they are very supportive of the idea."

The AFC Totton Supporters' Club was being officially launched today to coincide with the season's Calor Southern Premier opener at home to Stourbridge.

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

AFTER all the uncertainty surrounding AFC Totton during the summer, manager Steve Riley is just relieved to get the season started.

With more youth than experience at his disposal right now, keeping the club in the Calor Southern Premier Division represents one of the biggest challenges of his managerial career.

But Riley is nothing if not positive and, going into today's home opener against title favourites Stourbridge, he couldn't wait to put the politics to one side and get on with the real business of football.

"Everything that's been happening has distracted from the football side of things and the season can't start quickly enough for me," he said.

"It's a hard start for us with Stourbridge at home and then Bideford away on Tuesday and it's going to be a tough season, but it will be an interesting learning curve for me, (assistant manager) Chris Ferrett and (coach) Steve Hollick."

As if losing players of the calibre of Mike Gosney, Carl Pettefer, Jamie Whiskin, Ross Bottomley and Jono Davies was not enough to deal with, Riley has been hamstrung in his attempts to rebuild a side virtually from scratch.

With Totton's 2012/13 squad still owed wages from



RALLYING ROUND: Floyd Hamodu lets fly during Totton's fundraising game.

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Non-league Football

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last season, the cash-strapped Stags were told they could only sign 16 players until such time they had struck an agreement with last season's team to pay them what they are owed.

"It's been a case of starting again from scratch," said Riley. "It's building blocks for us, trying to get a bit of experience around a bit of youth."

"It might have been easier for the young ones to learn their trade in the Wessex League, but it's sink or swim time. We've got a bit of character in the dressing room and the good thing about the young lads is they play without fear."

Riley remained hopeful this week of re-signing Dave Allen, who has also featured for Bashley in pre-season, but the experienced utility man is unavailable today and next Saturday.

Ex-Stags goalkeeper Joe McCormack is also a target for Riley who has struggled to find a replacement for Gareth Barfoot (now Gosport Borough) and Ross Casey (now Winchester City).

Totton went some way towards reducing their debt last Sunday when they held a successful family fun day at the Testwood Stadium.

A crowd of 250 turned up to watch the afternoon's main attraction, a friendly between the Stags' 2007 FA Vase final team and an AFC Totton Guest XI.

It turned out to be a high-scoring encounter with the Wembley old boys beaten 8-6 by Riley's all-stars.

Interim chairman Andy Straker said: "We had a decent crowd here and a lot of people stayed behind for the auction afterwards. It was a really friendly and enjoyable day."

"I don't know the final figure yet, but there was a substantial sum of money raised which will go towards paying the players' wages."



BIG MATCH: Tom Earls celebrates a goal, above. Left: The crowd enjoy the action.



BIG MATCH: Dave Allen enjoys the fund-raising game. Right: Super Stag enjoys making a save from one of the club's young supporters' penalty shots.



Non-league News

Forecast is good for City

KEEPER Tommy Forecast, one of Saints' most unsuccessful ever signings, has joined Eastleigh's Skrill Conference South rivals Chelmsford City.

Newham-born Forecast penned a lucrative five-year deal for Southampton following his arrival from Spurs for an undisclosed fee in the summer of 2008.

But, incredibly, he didn't make a single first-team appearance for the south coast club before being released this summer.

During his time at Saints he was loaned out to Grimsby Town where he made his first professional appearance in the Football League.

The 6ft 5in stopper also turned out on loan for Eastbourne Borough, Thurrock, Bromley and, latterly, Gillingham before taking his leave from St Mary's in June.

Forecast has appeared for Chelmsford against Norwich City and Heybridge Swifts in pre-season friendlies and manager Dean Holdsworth is delighted to welcome him in as competition for Carl Pentney.

Another ex-Saint, Matt Paterson, has joined Conference Premier new boys Aldershot Town along with ex-Eastleigh and Reading striker Brett Williams.

Paterson scored seven goals for Burton Albion last season as the Brewers made the League Two play-offs.

The 6ft 2in frontman, a former Scotland under-19 international, made 17 appearances for Southampton, scoring twice, and left for Southend United in January 2010.

He and Hedge End lad Williams impressed for the Shots during pre-season trials.

For 25-year-old Williams it is the chance to link up again with Aldershot manager Andy Scott, who previously signed him on loan from Reading during his time in charge at Rotherham.

Totton switch

AFC TOTTON'S Calor Premier match at home to Frome Town, scheduled for October 8, will be rearranged to make way for the Stags' Hampshire FA Senior Cup tie at AFC Portchester.

Subject to league approval, the Frome game will now take place on Tuesday, November 12 (7.45pm).

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

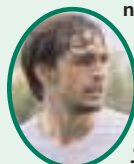
Bash shining Knight signs

CHARLIE Knight has signed for Bashley for the new Calor Southern Premier Division season.

The former Salisbury City and AFC Totton wideman put pen to paper after turning in a man-of-the-match performance in last Saturday's David Jose Memorial Trophy game at Bashley Rec.

The friendly ended all square at 2-2 and it was Bash who clinched it 5-4 on penalties.

George Webb opened the scoring for Wimborne only for Jack Odam, Bashley's



new signing from AFC Totton, to run onto Tim Sills' throughball and slot an equaliser past Magpies' keeper Jason Harvell.

Tim Stephenson then put Bash ahead, drilling home a left-foot strike from the edge of the area. But their lead lasted less than a minute as Sam Griffin's shot was blocked and Jamie Davidson tucked home the rebound.

The turning point of the penalty shootout came when Reading goalkeeper George Legg – playing in the absence of the Foresters' No1 Nic Jones – saved from former Bash striker James Stokoe.

And it was Legg who fired home the decisive penalty, outwitting his opposite number Harvell from 12 yards.

PETERSFIELD Town are requesting youth team players for the new season.

Anyone interested should contact first-team manager Ian Saunders on 07500 705486.

EXPERIENCED midfielder Steve Green has signed for Lee Burch's Hythe & Dibden in Sydenhams One.

Green spent much of last season with Totton & Eling before registering with Blackfield & Langley. Prior to that he had spells with Lymington Town and Christchurch.

VERWOOD Town have bolstered their attacking options with the capture of multi-travelled frontman Joe Kittle.

The nomadic striker has played for Christchurch, Bournemouth Poppies, Brockenhurst and Lymington Town in the past and Potters boss Adie Arnold is hoping he will settle with his Sydenhams Premier side.

"Joe has been at a few clubs and he needs to find somewhere he is happy," said Arnold. "Joe approached me about the prospect of playing here and I felt we needed to strengthen, so it has worked out well."



SIGNING: Whitchurch's Ashley Ledger.

New boys' new man

WHITCHURCH United chairman Gary Shaughnessy is stepping down after seven years at the helm due to increased commitments outside the club.

Centre-half Shaughnessy has been involved with the Sydenhams Wessex outfit for the past 17 years, the first 15 of them as a player.

Having played a part in helping the club to success on the field and stability off it, he will now stand down at the AGM on Sunday, August 18.

Last season Whitchurch achieved promotion to the Sydenhams Premier Division as runners-up to Brockenhurst and enjoyed another great FA Cup run.

Shaughnessy said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as chairman, but I feel it's the right time to hand over the reins after seven years."

"I'd like to thank the committee members, managers, coaches, players and all the volunteers for all their hard work and support over the years."

He added: "It has been great to be part of

Whitchurch United – helping to provide junior football at all ages through to a good standard of senior football."

Whitchurch manager Jim Macey paid tribute to the outgoing chairman, saying: "He is the main reason I came to the club, but I understand why he is standing down."

"He has achieved so much for the club and three years ago when we sat down together I don't think either of us thought we would get promotion. It just shows how far we have come as a club."

"It has been a pleasure to work with him and I class him as a friend."

Brian Jackman will be standing for the post of chairman at the AGM.

Whitchurch, meanwhile, have signed Ashley Ledger, who was part of Alresford Town's treble-winning squad last season.

Ledger was previously with Tadley Calveley before he signed for the Magpies.

Theo Strong has also signed for United, as has Brendon Summers, formerly of AFC Portchester and the now defunct Andover FC.

Bemerton's Pompey crew grows

BEMERTON Harlequins have a carload of Portsmouth-based players to help them drive on from last year's fifth-place finish in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Jack Eves and Tom Roberts – two of their regulars last season – both hail from the Pompey area and the pair now have two new travelling companions in George Way and Blu Boam, both signed from AFC Portchester.

Midfielder Way has a sound pedigree, having previously been on the books of Portsmouth, Gosport Borough and Moneyfields.

"George will add more quality to the centre of the park and we've also got Blu Boam who's another decent player and a versatile midfielder," said Bemerton boss Ian Chalk.

Heath's most eyebrow-raising signing of the summer, however, has to be former Salisbury City defender Aaron Cook.

The 33-year-old centre-back skippered Salisbury from the Southern/Ryman League through to the Conference National and includes Portsmouth, Bashley, Eastleigh and Newport County among his former clubs.

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Last season he helped Gosport Borough to promotion to the Conference South and, when he parted company with the Privett Park club this summer, Chalk couldn't help but try and lure him back to Wiltshire.

He said: "I knew Aaron was available and touting himself around, so I rang to see if he wanted to speak to me."

"He liked what I said and we liked each other and he was happy to sign."

Full-back/frontrunner Sam Carter has also joined the Harlequins from Totton & Eling, while the evergreen Vinnie Rusher has switched camps from neighbours Downton.

There had been talk of Rusher perhaps going to Winchester City as assistant manager to Graham Kemp, but Chalk said: "Vinnie wants to play. He's not quite ready to step into a management role yet. He's more than happy to tag along with us and we're pleased to have him."

Matt Holmes – son of ex-Saint Nick – has also moved across from Downton to help out Chalk in a player/coach capacity.

Having been regular top-five finishers in recent seasons, Bemerton are again expected

to make an impression on the title race.

But things didn't go to plan in last Saturday's opener at Fareham Town where two-goal Sam Knight condemned them to a surprise 2-1 league defeat.

The Harlequins made instant amends on Tuesday, however, battering Bournemouth Poppies 6-0 at Western Way. Kane O'Keefe helped himself to a hat-trick, backed by Joe Sanger, Tom Roberts' second penalty in four days, and Seb Dawes.

Reflecting on the Fareham defeat, Chalk said: "We had six major players missing and it showed as we produced a below-par performance."

Fareham were also weakened by injuries, suspensions and holidays. With Louie Martin their only recognised defender, Town managed to keep Bemerton at bay with wideman Wayne Boud, goal machine Graham Lindsey and new signing Lee Tigwell playing in a makeshift back four.

Matt Parr's side added another point to their tally on Tuesday, drawing 1-1 at home with Hamworthy United.

Sam Pekun gave the Hammers the lead in first-half injury time before Bryn McKie slotted away a 64th-minute penalty to preserve Fareham's unbeaten start.



BEMERTON RECRUIT: Aaron Cook

Non-league Football

Parting salute for Bugg

ANDOVER New Street have parted company with the long-serving Mick Bugg.

It is understood that Bugg, who combined duties as house chairman with that of club treasurer and football secretary, left following disagreements with some policies within the committee.

Saluting Bugg's contribution to New Street, chairman Martin Tobin said: "This club owes Mick a huge debt of gratitude as he did an immense amount of work behind the scenes and it is because of him that the club is on a level playing field now."

"In truth, I doubt whether the club would be here without him."

"He will always be welcome here and there is absolutely no animosity between Mick and the committee as we go back a long time."

Meanwhile managers Matt Styles and Matt Davies began their New Street reign with a 4-1 defeat at fancied Cowes Sports on the Isle of Wight last Saturday.

But the north Hampshire outfit were far from overawed – despite fielding five under-18s and having a man sent off late in the Sydenhams One clash.

Young Ryan Heathershaw netted in the first half and caught the eye among the half dozen debutants in the New Street side.

Goalkeeper Alan Ralph, recently signed from Stockbridge, was soon in the action but, within eight minutes, Street trailed 2-0 to goals by Darren Williams and Max Draper.

Cole Hinchcliffe's goalline clearance moments later saved a third, giving New Street some belief. And when home skipper Craig Insley's poor clearance found Heathershaw, he fired a superb strike from 20 yards over Ed Hatt to make it 2-1 with just 15 minutes gone.

Five minutes before the break Jordan Browne made it 3-1 to Cowes and, when Hinchcliffe took a knock, another teenager, Graham Williams, replaced him as New Street looked to regroup after the break.

But Cowes were just too good on the day and Browne struck again to cap victory.

Street were reduced to ten men when Keiron Reeves got a second yellow for bringing down Danny Hatcher.

STU HAS TOUCH OF THE PROFESSIONAL

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

STUART Doling may not have a league-winning budget at his disposal at Lymington Town, but that won't stop him running the club as professionally as possible.

With over 40 Football League appearances behind him with Portsmouth back in the early 90s, he has worked under enough good managers and coaches to know what makes a club tick.

John Gregory, Frank Burrows, Tony Barton, Graham Paddon, Peter Osgood and, above all, Jim Smith – Doling, pictured, learned valuable lessons from them all during a somewhat turbulent six-year stint at Fratton Park.

He knew the late, great Alan Ball well too and it was the then Pompey manager who must have seen a kindred spirit in the red-headed midfielder to sign him on as an apprentice after he had yo-yoed between Fratton Park and The Dell.

Doling, a childhood Saints fan who went on to captain Southampton Schools, made his Pompey debut against Port Vale in August 1991 and capped an outstanding performance by laying on the winning goal for Colin Clarke.

Also in the side that day were current Eastleigh assistant boss Guy Butters, Andy Awford, Kit Symons and ex-England man Darren Anderton.

Doling, who stepped up from the assistant manager's role at Lymington Town when Andy Leader left last season, said: "I've been brought up to be professional and, with limited resources at Lymington, that's what I'm trying to bring to this club."

"When Leadsy left, I was asked if I could take over for four games and, had it been any other club, I wouldn't have done it."

"But Lymington's my home town, I've played for the club and so have lots of my wife's family."

"I didn't say 'yes' straight away (to taking over on a permanent basis), I had to



make sure I had the right people around me. I've brought in Matthew Dunford, who worked up at Andover with Leadsy, and we're doing it together with Matthew doing a lot of the administrative work."

"I'm trying to introduce different training exercises, pulling in bits and pieces from everyone I've played under."

"I'm looking to build something at Lymington on and off the pitch over the next few years, not just for one season."

At the age of 22, Doling was offered a new contract by Portsmouth, but he stunned south coast football – and the non-League world in particular – by signing for the old AFC Lymington in the Wessex League.

It was an amazing coup for the New Forest club as it was understood that at least two other Football League outfits were sniffing around.

"I was at Lymington with people like Graham Kemp and Paul Morris when they used to finish among the top clubs every year, playing entertaining football – and that's what I'm trying to bring

back now."

"I want us to play the passing, attacking game that I was brought up on," explained Doling, who went on to revive his League career with Doncaster Rovers in the mid-90s.

"We need to build the club back up and we've got enough backing to do it – not with money to pay wages, but with the support of the community."

"We've got five new committee members and the council are backing us by spending money on the clubhouse and facilities."

"We know we're not going to finish in the top two or three this season, but let's see how far we can go by all pulling together and taking small steps in the right direction."

"If we can get the club back to what it was before with a good atmosphere and entertaining football, that's half my job done. I want these lads playing with a smile on their faces and enjoying their football."

"I don't think too many clubs will have a better team spirit than us and that goes a long way in football."

"We'll give quite a few clubs a run for their money, but win, lose or draw, we'll do it together."

Doling is always on the lookout for extra coaching expertise. "It's good to have other ideas as well as mine, but we need a certain character to fit in with the team," he said. Doling can be contacted on 07885 722409.

● LYMINGTON Town got their first league win of the season under their belts at Whitchurch United last Saturday, edging a tight match at Longmeadow 2-1.

A mix-up in the United defence let in Roy Viner for a simple lob on 13 minutes and he doubled the advantage from the penalty spot after Tommy Pemberton was adjudged to have handled in the box.

Whitchurch replied late on when Isaac Sedu's shot was parried and James Tennant followed up.

There was disappointment for Town on Tuesday night, however, when they lost 3-1 at Downton. Goals by Callum Coker (2) and Jack Brooks earned the Robins their first win of the season.

Non-league News

Plea for help

CHAIRMAN Mark Duffy has issued an appeal for support as Christchurch look to complete their new changing rooms at Hurn Bridge.

The Sydenhams Premier outfit are striving to improve facilities at the venue.

Duffy said: "We are progressing, albeit slowly, with the building development project to provide much-needed, improved and larger changing room facilities for players and officials alike, while also providing toilet facilities for visiting spectators."

"We are appealing for any kind of support – financial donations, materials and equipment or even skilled builder time – to help complete this self-funded project."

"The major works have already been completed. The walls are up and the roof is on."

"We are endeavouring to complete the build in time for the Bournemouth Football Association local cup finals in March 2014, with local teams also using the club's facilities for their prestigious finals."

"Our club is run entirely by a committee of volunteers who are appealing to any local businesses and individuals to support this project and the ideals of the club – retaining amateur status but still continuing our long history of success, with our much-admired development of young players."

If you feel you can help, email the club via chairman@christchurchfc.co.uk

Losing start

SALISBURY City have had a tough baptism in the Skril Conference Premier, suffering back-to-back defeats against Tamworth and Luton Town – without scoring a goal.

Ex-Saints defender Wayne Thomas wrecked Whites' return to non-League's top table by heading Tamworth's 31st-minute winner at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium last Saturday as City were silenced 1-0 by the Lambs.

Salisbury made a fairly even battle of it for the first hour at Luton on Tuesday until James Clarke's trip on substitute Andre Gray invited Solomon Taiwo to beat Will Puddy from the spot.

The Whites sent on player/assistant manager Warren Feeney as they poured forward in search of an equaliser but, with nine minutes remaining, they were caught by a sucker punch when Luke Guttridge headed in Dave Martin's free kick.

"We just need to keep believing in ourselves," said boss Mikey Harris, pictured.



Hants cup holders get a bye

HOLDERS Alresford Town have been handed a bye through to the second round of the 2013/14 Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

The Magpies, who lifted three trophies last season, will open their defence of the county crown at home to Team Solent on Tuesday, October 8.

Conference South giants Eastleigh will host the winners of the all-Wessex tie between Hythe & Dibden and Whitchurch United, while Steve Riley's AFC Totton must pay a visit to Graham Rix's AFC Portchester.

Should Blackfield & Langley get past Moneyfields away from home in the first

round on Tuesday, September 10, they would host AFC Bournemouth's development squad – last year's beaten finalists – at the next stage.

HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP

First round: (to be played week beginning September 9): Bournemouth Poppies v Totton & Eling, Hythe & Dibden v Whitchurch Utd, Fareham Town v Cove, Tadley Calleva v Christchurch, Moneyfields v Blackfield & Langley, Eversley & California v Newport IoW, Hayling Utd v New Milton Town, East Cowes Vics v Petersfield Town, Folland Sports v Alton Town, Ringwood Town v Lymington Town, Hordean v Fleet Spurs, Brockenhurst v Romsey Town, Fawley AFC v Cowes Sports, Andover New Street v Andover Town,

Second round: (to be played week beginning October 7): US Portsmouth v Basingstoke Town, Hartley Wintney v Havant & Waterlooville, Aldershot Town v

Fleet Town, Farnborough v Eversley & California or Newport IoW, Stockbridge v Bournemouth Poppies or Totton & Eling, Gosport Borough v Fareham Town or Cove, Winchester City v Folland Sports or Alton Town, Fawley AFC or Cowes Sports v Sholing, AFC Portchester v AFC Totton, Brockenhurst or Romsey Town v Andover New Street or Andover Town, Eastleigh v Hythe & Dibden or Whitchurch Utd, Hayling Utd or New Milton Town v Bashley, East Cowes Vics or Petersfield Town v Hordean or Fleet Spurs, Moneyfields or Blackfield & Langley v AFC Bournemouth, Alresford Town v Team Solent, Tadley Calleva or Christchurch v Ringwood or Lymington Town.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

First round: (to be played week beginning October 21) AFC Stoneham v Fareham Town, AFC Totton v Golden Common, Totton & Eling v Moneyfields, Newport IoW v Hedge End Rangers, Christchurch v Hythe & Dibden, Pessy Vale v Hordean, Bemerton HH v Locks Heath, Romsey Town v Folland Sports, Lymington Town v Sholing, Petersfield Town v Gosport Borough.

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Mills looks sheer class

GRAHAM Kemp has only managed Winchester City for a handful of competitive games, but already he has been won over by the sheer class of Leigh Mills.

The 25-year-old defender/midfielder, pictured, who returned to City from Blackfield & Langley during the summer, boasts a CV that is a cut above the average Wessex League player's.

In 2004 Tottenham reportedly paid around £150,000 to sign Mills from Swindon Town's Academy in a deal which, with clauses, could eventually have been worth £1 million.

He had been invited for trials by Manchester United and Everton and played in the same England under-17 side as Theo Walcott, Michael Mancienne and Fabrice Muamba.

"Leigh's different class," said the City boss, speaking after Tuesday's 2-0 win at Christchurch. "He looked okay in pre-season, but once we started playing competitively he stepped up his game."

"His reading of the game and his composure are fantastic and he hasn't put a foot wrong."

"Against Christchurch the crowd were shouting at me to take off the No4 because they could see Leigh was holding us together at the back."

Having done just enough in the first-half at Hurn Bridge to lead by a 24th-minute Mills header, City fell way below par after the break and were lucky not to concede against Kemp's old club.

Then, seven minutes from time, they set the seal on victory when Liam Robinson side-footed home Ben Osborne's cross to ensure Winchester stayed top of the Sydenhams Premier pile.

"The first half was comfortable at 1-0 and we didn't break sweat," said Kemp. "But we didn't come out of the blocks for the second half and we got away with it a bit when Christchurch missed a one-on-one and Mark Smith put one wide of an open goal."

"Christchurch were unfortunate not to get back on terms. If they had, I honestly don't think we'd have gone on and won the game. "Christchurch are a good, young team, just as I left them, and they were unlucky tonight."

"We're getting the rub of the green at the moment, maybe because of that extra bit of quality we've got."

LATE GOAL HITS TOWN

ROMSEY Town suffered last-gasp heart-break at Whitchurch United on Tuesday.

Having kicked off 2012/13 with back-to-back defeats against title favourites Sholing and Moneyfields, the Bypass boys had been hoping to kick-start their season away to the newly-promoted Sydenhams One runners-up.

But their dreams were shattered by a break-away Isaac Sedu goal two minutes from time. The 2-1 scoreline does not begin to tell the story of a night of missed chances at Longmeadow.

Whitchurch squandered two penalties and a host of other chances in the first half and went in 1-1 at the break after Danny Phillips had scrubbed out Luke Walker's opener.

Walker was the first to fluff his lines from the 12 yards, having his spot kick saved by Brad Snelling, and then Alex Dockree struck his effort against the post.

But the boot was firmly on the other foot after the break as Romsey took control.

Substitute Elliot Richards' 25-yard drive brought a sharp save from Tom Hindmarsh in



Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

the Whitchurch goal and then Jack McCarthy's shot was deflected agonisingly wide before the same player brought another superb save out of Hindmarsh. But, having survived a scare with five minutes to go when Sako, in acres of space, blazed over from ten yards, there was no sparing Romsey in the 89th-minute.

Dockree launched a long pass into the path of the nippy Sedu and he outpaced the defence before slotting his shot under Snelling.

With Whitchurch boss Jim Macey missing through illness, relieved assistant John Routledge said: "We should have been five up at the break, but I was very disappointed at the way we approached the penalties. But we kept going and I think we were the better side."

Romsey, though, arguably deserved something

from the game based on their second-half performance. But, not for the first time, they were thwarted by outstanding goalkeeping.

Last Saturday Town lost 1-0 at home to Moneyfields, but would have salvaged a point had it not been for the age-defying agility of veteran 'keeper Dave Hook who somehow thwarted Geoff Dunn's goalbound 25-yard strike.

"How he got to it, I don't know," marvelled Town's assistant manager Carl Bennett.

"I was off my seat celebrating, but he somehow got his fingers to it and got enough on it to push it over. With ten minutes to go that would have given us a lifeline and, had it gone in, we might even have pushed on and got another."

"But despite the result, Danny (manager Danny Barker) and I were impressed with the side and felt a 1-1 draw would have been fair."

"Moneyfields are a great team who are going to be right up there at the end of the season, whereas we've got a side still trying to gel."

"To think we matched a side like Moneyfields is very promising for us."

THIS WEEK'S NATIONAL AND LOCAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday, August 18
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Chelsea v Hull (4.00), Crystal Palace v Spurs (1.30)

Monday, August 19
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Man City v Newcastle (8.00)
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
South: Boreham Wood v Bishops Cleeve, Chelmsford v Concord Rangers, Havant & Waterlooville v Farnborough.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: St Albans v Hungerford.
Division One South & West: Clevedon v Bridgwater.

Tuesday, August 20
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Play-Off First Leg: Shakhtar Karaganda v Celtic (4.00)
Sky Bet CHAMPIONSHIP
Wigan v Doncaster

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
South: Basingstoke v Gosport Borough, Bath City v Eastleigh, Bromley v Whitehawk, Dorchester v Weston-super-Mare, Dover v Ebbsfleet, Eastbourne Borough v Tonbridge Angels, Maidenhead v Hayes & Yeading, Sutton v Staines.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Arlesey v Chesham, Bashley v Truro, Bedford v Redditch, Bideford v AFC Totton, Burnham v Banbury, Chippenham v Poole Town, Hemel Hempstead v Corby, Hincley v Hitchin, Stourbridge v St Neots, Weymouth v Frome.
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v Cinderford, Cirencester v Evesham, Didcot v Swindon Supermarine, Fleet Town v North Leigh, Merthyr Town v Mangotsfield, Paulton Rovers v Tiverton, Stratford v Shortwood, Taunton v Yate, Wimborne v Godalming.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton HH (7.30), Downton v Sholing, Fareham v

Christchurch, Folland Sports v Moneyfields, Hordean v Whitchurch, Newport IOW v Romsey, Totton & Eling v AFC Portchester, Winchester City v Bournemouth Poppies.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v Locks Heath, Bournemouth Sports v QK Southampton, Clancield v Headley Utd, Colden Common v Overton, Fleetlands v Bishops Waltham, Hedge End Rangers v Paulsgrove, Liphook v Liss, Otterbourne v AFC Stoneham.

Wednesday, August 21
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Play-Off First Leg: Dinamo Zagreb v FK Austria Vienna, Fenerbahce v Arsenal Ludogorets v Basle Schalke 04 v FC Metalist Kharkiv Steaua Bucuresti v Legia Warsaw
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Chelsea v Aston Villa
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Cambridge City v Biggleswade.
Division One South & West: Guildford v Thatcham.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Fawley AFC, Hamworthy Utd v Lynton Town.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: Winchester Castle v AFC Aldermaston.

Thursday, August 22
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
Play-Off Round - First Leg (selected): Dinamo Tbilisi v Spurs (8.05), Swansea v Petrolul Ploiesti (8.05).

Friday, August 23
SKY BET LEAGUE 1
Colchester v Carlisle, Wolverhampton v Crawley Town.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Christchurch v Totton & Eling, Sholing v Blackfield & Langley.

Saturday, August 24
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Aston Villa v Liverpool (5.30), Everton v West Brom, Fulham v Arsenal (12.45), Hull v Norwich, Newcastle v West Ham, SAINTS v Sunderland, Stoke v Crystal Palace
SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Blackburn v Barnsley, Blackpool v Reading, Bolton v QPR (12.15), Brighton v Burnley, Charlton v Doncaster, Huddersfield v Bournemouth, Ipswich v Leeds, Leicester v Birmingham, Sheffield Wed v Millwall, Wigan v Middlesbrough, Yeovil v Derby
LEAGUE 1
Bradford v Sheffield Utd, Brentford v Walsall, Leyton Orient v Crewe, Milton Keynes Dons v Bristol City, Notts County v Stevenage, Oldham v Port Vale, Rotherham v Shrewsbury, Swindon v Gillingham, Tranmere v Peterborough.
LEAGUE 2
AFC Wimbledon v Scunthorpe, Accrington Stanley v Cheltenham, Bristol Rovers v York, Burton Albion v Bury, Chesterfield v Southern, Dag & Red v Newport County, Hartlepool v Fleetwood Town, Mansfield v Portsmouth, Morecambe v Exeter, Northampton v Torquay, Oxford Utd v Wycombe, Plymouth v Rochdale.

THE SKRILL PREMIER
Barnet v Nuneaton Cambridge Utd v Lincoln City Dartford v Braintree Town Forest Green v Luton Grimsby v Alfreton Town Hereford v Tamworth Kidderminster v Chester FC Macclesfield v FC Halifax Salisbury v Aldershot Southport v Gateshead Woking v Welling Wrexham v Hyde.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
South: Basingstoke v Eastleigh, Bath City v Gosport Borough, Boreham Wood v Hayes & Yeading, Bromley v Tonbridge Angels, Chelmsford v Staines, Dorchester v Whitehawk, Dover v Concord Rangers, Eastbourne Borough v Ebbsfleet, Havant & Waterlooville v Weston-super-Mare, Maidenhead v Farnborough, Sutton v Bishops Cleeve.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Arlesey v Corby, Bashley v St Neots, Bedford v AFC Totton, Bideford v Biggleswade, Burnham v Frome, Cambridge City v

Poole Town, Chippenham v Hitchin, Hemel Hempstead v Hungerford, Hincley v Truro, St Albans v Banbury, Stourbridge v Chesham, Weymouth v Redditch.
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v Godalming, Cirencester v Bridgwater, Clevedon v Thatcham, Didcot v Cinderford, Fleet Town v Mangotsfield, Guildford City v Yate, Merthyr Town v Tiverton, Paulton Rovers v Swindon Supermarine, Stratford v North Leigh, Taunton v Shortwood, Wimborne v Evesham.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Fawley AFC, Bemerton HH v Brockenhurst, Bournemouth Poppies v Newport IOW, Moneyfields v Downton, Romsey v Hamworthy Utd, Verwood v Hordean, Whitchurch v Folland Sports, Winchester City v Alresford.
Division One: Cowes Sports v Hythe & Dibden, Fleet Spurs v Pewsey Vale, Hayling Utd v Amesbury, New Milton v Laverstock & Ford, Ringwood v US Portsmouth, Tadley Calvea v Stockbridge, Team Solent v Andover Town.
SWL Cup, first round: Andover New Street v East Cowes Vics.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Stoneham v Liss, Bournemouth Sports v AFC Aldermaston, Colden Common v Bishops Waltham, Fleetlands v Liphook, Headley Utd v Locks Heath, Hedge End Rangers v Baffins Milton Rovers, Otterbourne v Winchester Castle, Paulsgrove v Overton, QK Southampton v Clancield.
Division One: Durlay v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Four Marks v Bush Hill, Lyndhurst v Andover Lions, University of Portsmouth v Infinity, Upham v Broughton.
Combination Division: Bishops Waltham v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Clancield v Bournemouth Sports, Hamble Club v Hedge End Rangers, Liphook v Fleetlands, Liss v AFC Stoneham, Overton v Paulsgrove, Winchester Castle v Otterbourne.

Non-league Football

Mark puts money where his heart is

SUPPLY Communications have not only stepped in as main sponsors of Romsey Town, but their managing director Mark Blackwell has become something of a fan too.

There are framed home and away team shirts proudly hanging on the walls of his office on the Romsey Industrial Estate and the company's signs have been changed to incorporate the words 'Proud to be supporting Romsey Town FC.'

Blackwell's interest in the Sydenhams Premier club started through one of Romsey's players, Sam McCarthy, who works there and asked his boss for help, **writes WENDY GEE.**

Initially Supply Communications – a rapidly growing telecoms business keen to support local projects and charities – helped out with kit sponsorships and tracksuits for Town's players.

But, as Romsey's assistant manager Carl Bennett explained, their interest hasn't stopped there.

"They've also put a decent amount of money in for the running of the club," said Danny Barker's right-hand man.

"It's not a budget, as such, but it will get us through until Christmas



WELCOME INTEREST: Left to right, manager Danny Barker, sponsor Mark Blackwell and assistant manager Carl Bennett.

and hopefully we can find some extra sponsorship to take us through the rest of the season.

"The investment Supply Communications is putting into Romsey Town will provide the stepping stone to make various improvements and finance the day-to-day running of the club.

"As official main sponsors, their money goes towards the first-team

kit, tracksuits, training, entry fees for the league, running and maintenance of the ground and facilities and an overdue revamp of the football pitch.

"We've got new dugouts being put in and we're waiting on a quote to have a turnstile installed. We've got various other ground upgrades in mind, like a bar and a new barbecue for outside functions."

Last season's main sponsors, local car servicing company Romsey Fast Fit, are still on board too. Their money has helped towards pitch improvements – and already it's made a difference.

"We've done a lot of work on the pitch and Stuart Green, who used to play for us, said it was a lot better than it was last year when he came back with Moneyfields last weekend," said Bennett.

Moneyfields emerged 1-0 winners at the Bypass Ground last Saturday thanks to an early Rob Evans goal.

But, with Blackwell watching on, Romsey produced a promising performance which suggested that, once their newly assembled side gels, last season's relegation struggles should be a thing of the past.

"Mark loves his football and, although he won't be able to get to every game, he's going to try and come to as many as possible," said Bennett.

"He's really enjoying his involvement with the club.

"Supply Communications deal with businesses all over the UK, but they're based here in Romsey and it's great to have a local company behind us."

Havant get smart Alek

STEVE Brougham is convinced Alek Pzespolewski has the ability to make his mark with Havant & Waterlooville.

But the Newport IoW boss says it's the utility man's desire to succeed that will decide whether or not he can cut it in the Skrill Conference South.

Having made his name playing for Brougham at Brading Town in the Sydenhams League, Pzespolewski – a versatile defender/wing-back with an eye for goal – was part of Winchester City's Wessex championship-winning side of 2011/12.

He returned to the Isle of Wight with Newport last season and topped the Wessex scoring charts with 36 goals in 38 appearances, netting an impressive 44 in all competitions.

"Przes is going to give it a go at Havant and he's got the technical

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

and goalscoring ability to do well," said Brougham.

"What he also needs is the dedication to fitness and the willingness to learn the level he's playing at.

"Scott Jones (another ex-Brading player) has shown it can be done at Havant and Przes has definitely got all the skills to make a success of it.

"The thing about Przes is he can play in so many positions.

"He was a full-back at Brading, he played midfield for Winchester and started midfield for me at Newport last year. But he had such a good eye for goal that we ended up playing him up front.

"I'd known about Havant's interest in him since the end of last sea-

son and I'm really hoping he'll make it with them."

With last year's top scorer Ollie Palmer having moved into the Football League with Mansfield Town, Hawks boss Lee Bradbury has brought another striker into the Westleigh Park fold.

Dennis Oli, who made his name with Grays Athletic, has signed for the Hawks following his release from Wycombe Wanderers.

Now 29, Oli started out as a QPR youth player and worked his way through the ranks to make 23 first-team appearances for the west Londoners.

After a single game at Swansea and four more at Cambridge United, his career took off at Grays where he was part of the side that won promotion from the Conference South and reached the play-offs in their first Conference National season.

London-born Oli then followed manager Mark Stimson into the Football League at Gillingham where he made 133 appearances before joining Wycombe on a one-year deal last summer.

Oli will bolster the Hawks' attacking options, alongside Sahr Kabba and Jones.

No sooner had the ink dried on his one-year H&W deal than he was scoring in last Saturday's entertaining 4-3 defeat by a Charlton Athletic XI at Westleigh Park.

"Dennis had one chance and he took it very well," said Bradbury.

"The lad is experienced and, at 29, can still get around – though, by his own admission, he needs to be fitter.

"Once he is, he will be a real threat in our league and opposition centre-halves will come off the pitch knowing they have been in a game."

Non-league News

War ends over Luke

THE lengthy saga surrounding Luke Burbidge's switch to Weymouth from Poole Town appears to have drawn to a close.

The transfer caused hostility between the two clubs after Burbidge took part in a training game for the Terras before their seven-day approach for his services had elapsed.

The Dolphins did threaten to contact the Football Association over the matter, but it appeared this week that they were ready to draw a line under the situation.

Posting on Poole's message-board late on Tuesday, Dolphins vice-chairman Chris Reeves said: "Sorry guys, Luke has decided he is going to join Weymouth.

"Tom (Poole manager Tom Killick) and I have long agreed you don't keep an unhappy player."

"We only want players who want to be with us – there are plenty of those."

Admitting that 21-year-old Burbidge had trained with Weymouth, Terras boss Brendon King had earlier acknowledged: "I think wires have been crossed somewhere along the line. The lad came to us and wanted to train and probably, in hindsight, perhaps he should not have."

King sees Burbidge as a crucial part of his new-look squad.

"He is a very fit lad, so the fact he hasn't had as many minutes as he would have liked pre-season won't be a problem for him. When he is not training or playing, he is in the gym."

"He's quick, he works hard, he gets crosses in and he scores goals, which is exactly what you want from a wide player."



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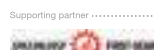
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Tuesday 20th August 2013
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SOUTHAMPTON REGIONAL POOL LEAGUE

A good ship to sail on

THE Southampton Regional Pool League (SRPL) is "a good ship to sail on", according to the skipper of the double Premier champions.

Teams from pubs and clubs compete in two different leagues on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Shirley watering hole The Brass Monkey, formerly The Rising Sun, claimed both Premier titles with slightly different squads in the winter/spring 2013 season.

The Tuesday side won all 14 league matches but were turned over 4-2 in the cup final by Division 3 outfit Fleming Arms.

Martyn Geddes - captain of both Monkey teams, which have had basically the same players for the past ten years - said:

"(Fleming Arms) were brilliant on the night. I've got no complaints. They deserved to win... and I'm gutted!"

But the 32-year-old added: "To win both the leagues and be finalists in both the cups is brilliant."

"It helps that we are six mates together. There's no ringers involved. That's the beauty of being six mates: we are all doing it for each other."

Geddes reckons the league organisation is "excellent" and he paid tribute to chairman Peter Elliott, vice-chairman Paul Lanahsdad and secretary Steve Farrow.

"You've got three blokes who know what they are doing," he said. "They're doing a great job. It's a good ship to sail on."

Last season's 78 teams has now increased to 87.

Elliott, 34, who spends at least two hours a day updating the website or answering e-mails and Facebook messages, had this message for pub landlords and club owners across the city: "There is a league in Southampton that will bring players to your pub or venue on Tuesday or Thursday when it may be quiet."

"There's too many pubs shutting."

Elliott and Lanahsdad took over the reins from Sean and Hayley Fox and Nick Warne at the end of 2011.

"The people who ran it before me didn't have the means or the capabilities of getting it into the 21st century," explained Elliott, who turns out for Thursday Division 3 side The Master Builder, West End, and works as studio manager at Indigo Press.

"I do it because it needed it. And I'm loving it."

To find out more about the SRPL, go to www.srpl.org.uk.



DOUBLE CHAMPIONS: Tuesday and Thursday Division 2 champions Prince of Wales, Northam.



TUESDAY PREMIER CHAMPIONS: The Brass Monkey, Shirley.

BIG NIGHT OUT PART 2!



TUESDAY DIVISION 2 RUNNERS-UP: The Shield & Dagger B, Shirley.



BITTERNE RBL: Tuesday Division 3 champions.



TUESDAY DOUBLE CHAMPIONS: Lee Bell (left) and



COMMITTEE: From left: Paul Lanahsdad (vice-chairman), Peter Elliott (chairman), Steve Farrow (secretary).

JULY 6, 2013, was a particularly dark day for the Southampton Regional Pool League.

Around 100 players, about to make light work of the buffet, were forced to abandon their presentation night at the Baizz Club, writes **TIM DUNKLEY**.

A power cut affecting the former 147/Castle Club, in Castle Way, and the surrounding area, wiped out weeks of preparation by the hard-working committee members.

Frustrated chairman Peter Elliott said: "I was absolutely gutted to see everybody stood out in the street at half past eight."

Fast forward five weeks and the beer flowed as freely as the banter as the reconvened event, billed The Big Night Out Part 2, passed without the need of torches.

Chris Patient defeated Paul Wyeth 5-2 in the singles competition and Aaron Pellow, the 60th and final entry, scooped £50 for clearing all 15 balls in one visit in the Warne's Pot-the-Lot competition - named after Nick Warne, from Shirley, who jointly ran the league for many years.

"He's not dead, by the way," explained Elliott. "He just used to run the competition on each of his presentation nights and we're keeping up the tradition."

Elsewhere, Kenny McKinven, the not so shy and retiring skipper of Tuesday Division 1 champions Kings Arms B, said it was "no mean feat" that the Shirley pub was the only venue to now field two Premier teams.

Snooker players will be interested to note that the presentations took place on the Baizz Club's re-vamped first floor, originally the Castle Club, which has retained a few snooker tables and the famous old matchroom.

The £240 proceeds from the raffle plus £70 from the Pot-the-Lot competition will be split between Two Saints, which helps the homeless, and brain injury association Headway Southampton - the two charities chosen by Southampton's former Mayor, Derek Burke, in May last year.

That month, the league's vice-chairman Paul Lanahsdad cycled the Isle of Wight Randonee and raised £1,200 for Two Saints.

The other committee members are Elliott, treasurer Rebecca Smith and secretary Steve Farrow.



THURSDAY DOUBLES CHAMPIONS: Tinks Singh (Reg Singh not pictured).



TUESDAY DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS: Kings Arms B, Shirley.



BITTERNE RBL: Thursday Division 3 champions.



THURSDAY CUP WINNERS: Old Farmhouse, Northam.

ANNUAL PRESENTATION EVENING...



THURSDAY PREMIER CHAMPIONS: The Brass Monkey, Shirley.



THURSDAY DIVISION 3 RUNNERS-UP: The Swan, Woolston, represented by Ryan 'Ace' Watts.



THURSDAY DIVISION 4 RUNNERS-UP: The Keys, Totton.



TUESDAY DIVISION 1 RUNNERS-UP: Elephant & Castle A, Totton.



TUESDAY PREMIER RUNNERS-UP: Old Farmhouse, Northam.



THURSDAY DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS: The Rover, Shirley.



THURSDAY DIVISION 2 RUNNERS-UP: Kings Arms A, Shirley.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Team Cup KO Best of the Best: Old Farmhouse.
Presentation night singles: Champion, Chris Patient; runner-up, Paul Wyeth.

WINTER/SPRING 2013 TUESDAY LEAGUE

Premier: Champions, Brass Monkey (Shirley); runners-up, Old Farmhouse (Northam).
Division 1: Champions, Kings Arms B (Shirley); runners-up, Elephant & Castle A (Totton).
Division 2: Champions, Prince of Wales (Northam); runners-up, Shield & Dagger B (Shirley).
Division 3: Champions, Bitterne RBL; runners-up, Elephant & Castle B (Totton).
Division 4: Champions, Players (Totton); runners-up, BTC Sports Club (Stoneham).
Knockout cup (sponsored by www.trophyman.co.uk): Champions, Fleming Arms (Swaythling); runners-up, Brass Monkey (Shirley).
Doubles: Champions, Andy Patience & Lee Bell (Gardeners Arms); runners-up, Tinks Singh & Reg Singh (Prince of Wales).

WINTER/SPRING 2013 THURSDAY LEAGUE

Premier: Champions, Brass Monkey (Shirley); runners-up, Old Farmhouse (Northam).
Division 1: Champions, Rover (Shirley); runners-up, Elephant & Castle (Totton).
Division 2: Champions, Prince of Wales (Northam); runners-up, Kings Arms A (Shirley).
Division 3: Champions, Bitterne RBL; runners-up, Swan (Woolston).
Division 4: Champions, Station (Bitterne); runners-up, The Keys (Totton).
Knockout cup (sponsored by www.trophyman.co.uk): Champions, Old Farmhouse (Northam); runners-up, Brass Monkey (Shirley).
Doubles: Champions, Tinks Singh & Reg Singh (Prince of Wales); runners-up, Alex Wood & Dan Parker (Elephant & Castle).

PICTURES: TIM DUNKLEY

WINTER/SPRING 2013 TUESDAY LEAGUE FINAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Brass Monkey	14	14	0	66	32	0	0 84
Old Farmhouse	14	9	5	58	40	0	0 68
Kings Arms A	14	9	5	48	50	0	0 64
Drummond Arms	14	7	7	54	44	0	0 61
Hop Inn	14	6	8	45	53	0	0 56
Shield & Dagger A	14	6	8	44	54	0	0 53
Hinkler A	14	3	11	41	57	0	0 45
Firehouse A	14	2	12	36	62	0	0 39

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Kings Arms B	14	11	3	56	42	0	0 74
Elephant & Cas A	14	10	4	57	41	0	0 70
Peartree Inn	14	9	5	52	46	0	0 66
Baizz Club (Acad)	14	8	6	53	45	0	0 66
Hinkler C	14	8	6	51	47	0	0 64
Bitterne Park Hot	14	5	9	41	57	0	0 51
Windsor Castle	14	3	11	44	54	0	0 48
Rileys A	14	2	12	38	60	0	0 40

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Prince of Wales	14	11	3	59	39	0	0 75
Shield & Dagg B	14	10	4	59	39	1	0 70
Dorchester Arms	14	9	5	60	38	1	0 70
Yacht Tavern	14	5	9	48	50	0	0 54
Chapel Arms	14	5	9	41	57	0	0 50
Highfield	14	6	8	37	61	0	0 49
Bricklayers Arms	14	5	9	45	53	1	-3 47
Swan, Woolston	14	5	9	37	61	0	-3 39

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Bitterne RBL	14	13	1	69	29	0	0 80
Elephant & Cas B	14	10	4	55	43	0	0 71
Fleming Arms	14	10	4	62	36	1	0 70
Gardeners Arms	14	9	5	55	43	1	0 68
Regents Pk Hotel	14	6	8	40	58	0	0 49
Shirley Hotel	14	4	10	42	56	0	0 46
Rileys B	14	3	11	33	65	0	-3 35
Hinkler B	14	1	13	33	65	0	0 34

DIVISION 4

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Players	14	11	3	59	39	0	0 75
BTC Sports Club	14	11	3	58	40	0	0 75
Station	14	11	3	64	34	0	0 74
Anchor	14	6	8	50	48	1	0 56
Malvern	14	6	8	48	50	0	0 54
Firehouse B	14	5	9	39	59	0	0 49
Saints	14	4	10	35	63	0	-6 35
Inferno	14	2	12	27	71	0	-6 24

WINTER/SPRING 2013 THURSDAY LEAGUE FINAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Brass Monkey	14	13	1	66	32	1	0 82
Old Farmhouse	14	9	5	50	48	0	0 66
Soton Rugby Club	14	7	7	52	46	0	0 61
Yacht Tavern	14	8	6	47	51	0	-4 58
Bridge Woolston	14	7	7	48	50	0	0 58
Hinkler A	14	7	7	46	52	0	0 57
Englishman	14	3	11	42	56	0	0 48
Hare & Hounds	14	2	12	35	63	0	-3 35

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Rover	14	12	2	56	42	0	0 73
Elephant & Cast	14	10	4	62	36	1	0 70
Freemantle Hotel	14	9	5	57	41	0	0 67
Grove Tavern	14	9	5	53	45	0	0 67
Peartree Inn	14	4	10	43	55	0	0 48
Shield & Dagger	14	4	10	41	57	0	0 48
Netley Vict Club	14	4	10	44	54	0	0 47
Kings Arms B	14	4	10	36	62	0	0 43

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Prince of Wales	12	10	2	53	31	0	0 65
Kings Arms A	12	8	4	46	38	0	0 57
Gardeners Arms	12	7	5	48	36	0	0 56
Shooting Star A	12	7	5	41	43	0	-1 51
Malvern	12	4	8	37	47	0	0 43
East Point Centre	12	3	9	39	45	0	0 41
Robin Hood B	12	3	9	30	54	0	0 33

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Bitterne RBL	14	14	0	76	22	3	0 87
Swan, Woolston	14	10	4	57	41	0	0 70
Saints B	14	7	7	51	47	1	0 61
Master Builder	14	7	7	47	51	0	0 55
Shooting Star B	14	7	7	41	57	0	0 50
Hinkler B	14	5	9	37	61	0	0 46
Griffin	14	2	12	35	63	0	-4 34

DIVISION 4

	P	W	L	F	A	7/0Pen	Pts
Station	14	10	4	67	31	2	0 72
The Keys	14	9	5	61	37	1	0 67
Obelisk	14	8	6	50	48	1	0 61
Baddeley Arms	14	8	6	49	49	0	0 60
Juniper Berry	14	6	8	46	52	0	0 55
Bent Brief	14	6	8	43	55	0	0 51
Saints A	14	7	7	44	54	0	-7 47
Chapel Arms	14	2	12	23	75	0	-3 22



SINGLES FINALISTS: Winner Chris Patient (left) and Paul Wyeth.



TUESDAY DIVISION 4 CHAMPIONS: The Players Arms, Totton.

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Local Cricket Spotlight

Burridge boys in the hunt

BURRIDGE cricketers are at the front of the queue to scoop the Southern Electric Premier Division 2 batting and bowling awards.

In the batting department, a mere seven runs separates top order pair Shu Chowdhury, with 618, and former Hampshire cricketer Derek Kenway, pictured, who has made 611 runs.

South African Geoff Dods is a near certainty to win the bowling award.

The Cape Town skipper

has 36 scalps, while glove-man Jamie Rood lies second in the wicket-keeping charts.

Burridge, though, went into today's home match with Hook & Newnham Basics trailing Sarisbury Athletic at the top of the table.

Leading performers – Premier Division

Batting: * Travis Head (Ventnor) 728, Oli Mills (Ventnor) 652, Robert Gibson (Havant) 645, James Hayward (South Wits) 603, * Alex Keath (Bournemouth) 601, * Scott Henry (Lymington) 656.

Bowling: Matt Metcalfe (Lymington) 31, * Alex Keath (Bournemouth) 30, Jordan Finney (St Cross Symondians) 29, Richard Logan (St Cross Symondians) 26, Rob Franklin (South Wits) 25.

Wicketkeeping: Tom Morton (South Wits) 23, Tom Arnold (Totton & Eling) 22, Lewis McManus (Academy) 20, Ed Ellis (Lymington) 19, Chris Ridley (Ventnor) 18.

Division 1

Batting: Shu Chowdhury (Burridge) 618, Derek Kenway (Burridge) 611, Jamie Richards (Liphook) 547, Ben Thane (Hook & NB) 546, Scott Baldwin (HW) 536, * Greg Dawson (Andover) 521, Nick Park (New Milton) 503.

Bowling: * Geoff Dods (Burridge) 36, James Ingram (SA) 24, Rosie Thattil (Hambledon) 24, * Matt Willett (Rowledge) 24, George Watts (New Milton) 23, Ryan Covey (Liphook) 23.

Wicketkeeping: Tom Prodomo (New Milton) 27, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 24, Ian Metcalfe (Rowledge) 20.

Division 2

Batting: * Dan Payne (Sparsholt) 704, * Jamie Eccles (Hursley Park) 670, Dan Coombs (Basingstoke) 594, Graham Noble (Langley Manor) 500, Raman Prendergast (Hursley Park) 478, Azeem Hamid (Totton & Eling II) 470, Stewart Magee (Paulsons) 463.

Bowling: Matt Oliver (Hursley Park) 33, Matthew Thakachan (Basingstoke) 29, David Pistorius (Basingstoke) 28, * Elijah Turfiff-Smith (Calmore Sports) 28, Mike West (Calmore Sports) 25, Dave Cox (US) 25.

Wicketkeeping: Lee Carroll (US) 24, Matt Brantford (Hursley Park) 19, Lawrence Benge (Basingstoke) 19.

Division 3

Batting: Matt Benfield (P & S) 478, Andy Galliers (Havant II) 466, Robert Jones (Portsmouth) 450, Tom Pearce (SW) 427, Ed Boyd (Trojans) 401, Jamie Mitchell (Portsmouth) 399, Rob Pittman (SW) 390.

Bowling: Vickram Dawson (Portsmouth) 37, Phil Loat (Havant II) 32, Paul Draper (SW) 32, * Liam Duffield (Portsmouth) 32, Andy Mash (Fair Oak) 30, Steve Mitchell (St Cross Symondians) 29.

Wicketkeeping: Alex Hammond (Portsmouth) 20, Sam Pittman (SW) 15, Alex Bass (Fair Oak) 13.

'VILLE IN THE DRIVING SEAT

WITH two rounds of fixture remaining after today, Waterloooville are firm favourites to carry off the Hampshire League, County Division 1 crown.

While they were blasting their way to a thumping 220-run victory over Hook & Newnham Basics II, their equal rivals Ellingham were beaten by St Cross Symondians or, to be more precise, Richard Taylor, writes **MIKE VIMPANY**.

It meant the end of a proud 12-match unbeaten record – 18 in all spanning back to midway through last season – and the Ville taking a 16-point lead into today's scheduled visit to Gosport Borough.

When Mark Burrett slammed an unbeaten 87 off 65 balls to complement the sound 99-run start by Matt Vail (46) and James McPherson (36), Ellingham looked to have a decent total on the board at 290-6.

But Taylor, who was playing Premier League cricket until last month, smashed five sixes and 18 fours in a devastating innings of 155 which swept St Cross past Ellingham's score with seven wickets and ten balls to spare.

The New Forest side were simply blown away by Taylor's powerful hitting. The former Andover captain shared free-scoring stands

	COUNTY DIVISION 1				
	P	W	L	Totl	Ave
Waterloooville	12	12	0	277	23.08
Ellingham	12	11	1	261	21.75
Alton II	10	8	2	200	20.00
Ryde	14	8	6	222	15.86
Ventnor II	11	6	5	172	15.64
* Gosport Borough	12	7	5	186	15.50
Portchester	13	7	6	194	14.92
* Locks Heath	12	6	6	170	14.17
St Cross Syms III	14	6	8	196	14.00
+ Hook & N Basics II	14	6	7	188	13.43
Lymington II	12	5	7	161	13.42
Shrewton	12	5	7	154	12.83
+ Rowledge II	12	4	7	146	12.17
Purbrook	13	5	8	157	12.08
Fareham & Crofton	14	4	10	161	11.50
* Old Basing	12	4	8	134	11.17
* Easton & Martyr W	12	4	8	128	10.67
Midhurst	13	3	10	136	10.46

with James Burridge (61) and teenager Felix Organ, who followed up his 3-68 return with an unbeaten 42.

Waterloooville cashed in, thrashing Hook & Newnham Basics II by 220 runs – South African Byron Haycock cracking 126 of his side's 275-9.

Hook sank to 8-4 against lead CD1 wicket-taker Sam Hillman pictured (5-16) and were bundled out for a dismal 55.

Third-placed Alton II could be runners-up if the forecast rain stays away and they beat Ellingham today.

But it's a long shot – with 21 points separating the pair before start of play today.

The margin of Alton's win over Locks Heath – an incredible 295 runs – must have been one of the largest in HL history.

New Zealander Brad Kneebone (111) and Jon Dow (117) hit centuries as Alton crash-banged their way to a massive 366-5. Locks Heath

mustered 71 in reply.

Teenager Harry Collier, enjoying his debut CD1 season, was the hero of Ryde's amazing two-wicket victory over Portchester.

The mainlanders were well placed after Richard Locke (87) and Andrew Webb (48) launched a 125-run start, which the Hungerford brothers, Paul (36) and Lee (26) subsequently improved.

It looked all over when Ryde collapsed to 86-7 and later 155-8.

But Collier, who plays for the Island Under-17s, produced an 18-four 105 not out and celebrated an unbroken 84-run partnership with fellow teenager Julion Jayarajah (30), which won the match – with 15 balls to



RYDE HERO: Century-maker Harry Collier.

FIVE WICKETS: Waterloooville's Sam Hillman.

spare!

Jayarajah earlier took 4-45.

Island neighbours Ventnor II lie just behind Ryde, but were well beaten when Gosport Borough visited Steephill.

Lee Harrop (64) and Craig Stares (55) hit half-centuries as Borough posted 257-7.

New Zealander Andrew Tiddy returned 5-49 to send Ventnor slithering to 92-7 before Mark Whyte's 52 gave the Steephill total of 142 an air of creditability.

The remaining fixtures threw the spotlight firmly on the situation at the bottom of the log, where Purbrook's resurgence continued with a four-wicket win over Shrewton.

Purbrook reduced visiting Shrewton to 39-5, but lost six cheap wickets before their influential Australian Jack Cunningham got them across the line.

Aaron Dean (4-49) did the initial damage before Cunningham finished the innings off at 138.

But Jamie Mitchell's spell of 5-22 had Purbrook in difficulty before Cunningham's 69 not out won the day.

The battle for CD1 survival looks now to be any three from four, with Fareham &



Crofton going into today's visit by Ventnor marginally ahead of Old Basing, who snatched a precious win at Lymington II.

Dan Belcher was OB's hero, cracking 126 as the visitors ran up 281-6 before bowling Lymington out for 247, Damian Edwards and Mark Costin hitting half-centuries.

Old Basing, who host the Lashings World XI next Friday, are effectively five points behind Fareham & Crofton, who can't seem to buy a victory at the moment.

They were on the receiving end of a 334-5 tousing at Rowledge II, where Chris Board's club best 155 included five sixes and 19 fours.

Tom Kent (68) and Chris Davey (48) hit back for Fareham, who finished well adrift at 204 all out.

It looks like curtains for Midhurst, the West Sussex club with arguably the nicest setting in CD1 at Cowdray Park.

They lost by 28 runs to Easton & Martyr Worthy, who were indebted to Mark Padwick (93) for their winning 259-run total.

Byron bags fifth century

WATERLOOVILLE'S South African run gun Byron Haycock, pictured, wrote himself into the Hampshire League's Hall of Fame when he scored his fifth century of the County Division 1 season against Hook & Newnham Basics II.

His 126 out of Ville's towering 275-9 at Rowlands Avenue took his season's run aggregate to a colossal 1,021.

He became only the sixth batsman in 40 years to score

over 1,000 in a season.

Only Charlie Forward, for Romsey in 1995, has previously scored 1,000 or more runs in a County Division 1 campaign.

Haycock, 20, hails from George – a travellers' start-point on South Africa's popular Garden Route – and played for Rochdale in the semi-professional Central Lancashire League last summer.

His five hundreds this season have come against Easton & Martyr Worthy



(150), Portchester (105), Midhurst (152), Old Basing

(114) and Hook & Newnham Basics II (126).

He also narrowly missed out on three other centuries, agonisingly being dismissed on 91, 88 and 89.

The Hampshire League's leading run makers over the past 20 years are:

1264 – County 1 – Charlie Forward (Romsey)

1263 – County 2 – Peter Tugwell (Burridge)

1081 – County 3 – Chris Powell (Poole)

1077 – County 2 – Adrian Greyvenstein (Hythe &

Dibden)

1021 – County 1 – Byron Haycock (Waterloooville)

1009 – Regional 3 NE – Richard Please (Liss)

Waterloooville, favourites to land the County 1 title following Ellingham's defeat by St Cross Symondians III last week, are also likely to have the leading wicket-taker.

Home grown Sam Hillman, a previous Portsmouth Grammar School captain, has captured 31 wickets this summer.

Local Cricket Spotlight

Higgins World Cup bound

BASHLEY (Rydal) talent Ryan Higgins, pictured, looks to have booked himself a passage to next year's ICC Under-19 World Cup tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

A series of fine batting performances for England in this week's tri-Series against Bangladesh and Pakistan ought to have got the Zimbabwe-born teenager into the

England Under-19 squad.

Higgins was named man-of-the-match after scoring an unbeaten match-winning century against Bangladesh at Worcester – his 112 not out coming between scores of 65 and 54 off a talented Pakistan attack.

The 18-year old, who recently finished his studies at Bradfield College, has been offered a contract

by Middlesex and will sign it once he returns to his Newbury home next week.

But before he signs a two-year deal, Higgins – along with Hampshire Academy pair Tom Barber and Lewis McManus – has the small matter of a tri-Series Under-19 final against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Monday.

England have lost all their 'preliminary' matches against Pakistan but ran one of the ICC tournament favourites close at Derby yesterday, finishing four runs short chasing 227-8.

Talking about his maiden Under-19 England century Higgins, who hit 13 fours and three sixes, said: "I'm pretty happy. It's been a while coming. I felt good in the games before and now I'm putting it into practice, getting it done."

"It was a pretty good deck at Worcester. Just getting through the new ball was quite key. After that it was easy batting really, just trying to hit the ball straight down the



ground.

England will be familiar with Pakistan by the time they meet in the day-time final at Trent Bridge.

"We played them yesterday and just missed out on a difficult Derby pitch, so we can try and look to build from this into the final," Higgins added.

"I think the main thing is trying to get our basics right with the ball and in the field. I think the batting has always looked pretty strong so far so we just need to build, just keep the batting going and if we get our bowling right I think we'll do alright."

As for Pakistan's strengths, he said: "Personally I feel it's their batting. Their bowling attack's no better than ours. Their batters have gone on and got big hundreds and that's what we've got to try and replicate."

Academy pair Barber and McManus await their chance to shine.

Barber has taken five wickets in his three Under-19 outings, but has an economy rate of 6.54.

In four innings, McManus has made scores of 16, eight, seven and six not out.

He will have two moments from yesterday's Sky Sports television coverage to enjoy – one fine leaping catch at extra-cover and a late-innings straight lofted drive for four.

Lewis will enjoy watching those clips a few times this winter!

Memorial for Jack

HOOK & Newnham Basics have erected a lasting memorial in the form of an electronic scoreboard to one of their former cricketers, 19-year old Jack Bland, who lost his life in a road accident two years ago. Jack, an opening bowler, also played for Odiham & Greywell and the two clubs meet at King Street on Sunday (1.30pm) in what has become an annual t20 memorial match.



Hartley race into cup final

AN eight-wicket win over Basingstoke & North Hants last night has set Hartley Wintney up for a Guy Jewell t20 Cup final showdown with Yateley at May's Bounty next Sunday, August 25.

South Wilts are hosting the Wiltshire Cricket Jack Wilcox Trophy next Sunday, with Corsham and Liam Dawson's Goatacre visiting Bemerton in a three-way contest.



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Barclays Premier League

Arsenal.....1	A. Villa.....3
Giroud 6	Benteke 22.61 pen
HT 1-1	Luna 85
	Att 60,003
Liverpool.....1	Stoke.....0
Sturridge 37	
HT 1-0	Att 44,822
Norwich.....2	Everton.....2
Whittaker 51	Barkley 61
van Wolfswinkel 71	Coleman 65
HT 0-0	Att 26,824
Sunderland.....0	Fulham.....1
	Kasami 52
HT 0-0	Att 43,905
Swansea.....L	Man Utd.....L
HT L-L	
W.B.A.....0	SAINTS.....1
	Lambert 90 pen
HT 0-0	
West Ham.....2	Cardiff.....0
Cole 13	
Nolan 76	
HT 1-0	Att 34,977

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A
A. Villa	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	3
West Ham	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Fulham	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Liverpool	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
SAINTS	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Everton	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1
Norwich	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crystal P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Man City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Man Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spurs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swansea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoke	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sunderland	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
W.B.A.	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Arsenal	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0

SkyBet Championship

Barnsley.....2	Charlton.....2
O'Grady 16,55	Cousins 64
HT 1-0	Church 72
	Att 9,554
Birmingham.....0	Brighton.....1
	Crofts 73
HT 0-0	Att 14,885
CHERRIES.....1	Wigan.....0
Grabban 43	
HT 1-0	Att 9,097
Burnley.....2	Yeovil.....0
Treacy 74	
Vokes 79	
HT 0-0	Att 10,085
Derby City.....0	Leicester.....1
	Grant 37 og
HT 0-1	Att 23,437
Leeds Utd.....1	Sheff Wed.....1
McCormack 58	Zayatte 36
HT 0-1	Att 23,766
Middlesbrough.....1	Blackpool.....1
Emnes 90	Basham 83
HT 0-0	Att 13,993
Millwall.....0	Huddersfield.....1
	Vaughan 57
HT 0-0	Att 9,503
Nottm For.....3	Bolton.....0
Mackie 2	
Reid 50	
Lansbury 65	
HT 1-0	Att 22,306
Q.P.R.....1	Ipswich.....0
Hitchcock 90	
HT 0-0	Att 17,075
Reading.....3	Watford.....3
Le Fondre 8	Faraoni 66
Karacan 42,70	Deeney 76 pen
	Fabbrini 90
HT 2-0	Att 20,875

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A
Nottm For	3	2	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0
Watford	3	1	0	0	6	1	1	0	4	3	7
Blackpool	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	2	7
Burnley	3	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	1
Q.P.R.	3	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	7
Leicester	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	7
CHERRIES	3	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	6
Reading	3	1	1	0	5	4	0	1	0	1	5
Leeds Utd	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	5
Derby City	3	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	4
Middlesbrough	3	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	1	0	4
Huddersfield	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	4
Wigan	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	3
Doncaster	2	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	3
Brighton	3	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	3
Birmingham	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Yeovil	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	3
Bolton	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
Charlton	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	4
Sheff Wed	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	3
Blackburn	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	1
Barnsley	3	0	1	1	2	6	0	0	1	0	1
Millwall	3	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	3

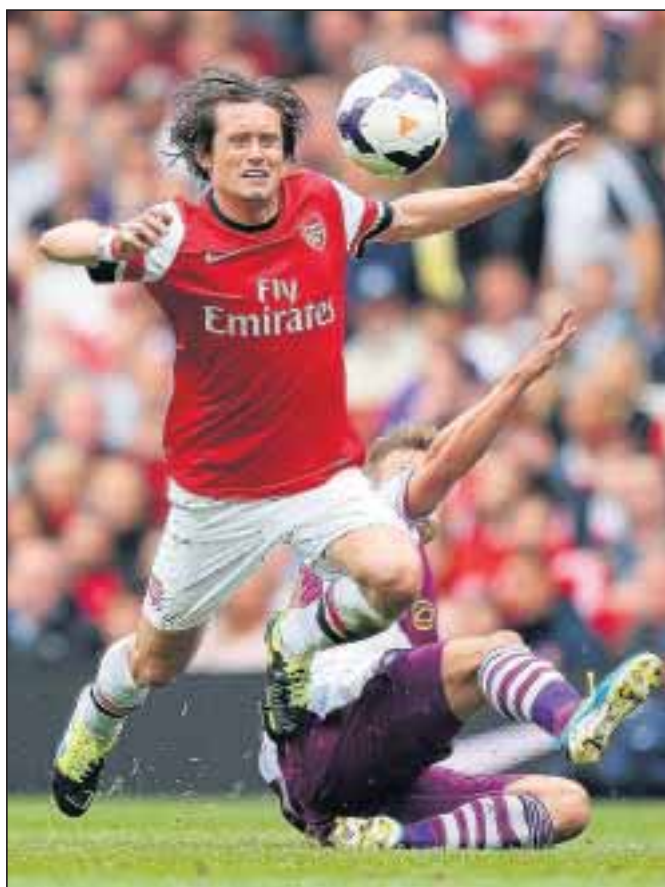
SkyBet League One

Bristol City.....1	Wolves.....2
Emmanuel-Thomas 53	Sako 22
HT 0-1	Doherty 85
	Att 14,393
Carlisle.....0	Coventry.....4
	L. Clarke 4,65, Mousa 6
HT 0-3	Daniels 31
	Att 4,072
Crawley.....1	Rotherham.....2
Sadler 15	Agard 36
HT 1-1	Worrall 76
	Att 3,110
Crewe.....2	Tranmere.....1
Colclough 42,85	Akpa Akpro 87
HT 1-0	Att 4,720
Gillingham.....1	Brentford.....1
Akinfenwa 40	El Alagui 90
HT 1-0	Att 6,225
Peterborough.....2	Oldham.....1
Assombalonga 34	MacDonald 90
Tomlin 84 pen	
HT 1-0	Att 6,184
Port Vale.....2	Bradford.....1
Hughes 43	Wells 60
Loft 66	
HT 1-0	Att 6,552
Preston.....2	M K Dons.....2
Kay 10 og	Banton 31
HT 2-1	Williams 63 pen
	Att 9,944
Sheff Utd.....1	Colchester.....1
Maguire 45	Sears 25
HT 1-1	Att 17,167
Shrewsbury.....2	Swindon.....0
Reach 9, Bradshaw 85	
HT 1-0	Att 4,943
Stevenage.....0	Leyton O.....1
	Lisbie 29
HT 0-1	Att 3,262
Walsall.....1	Notts Cnty.....1
Sawyers 50	Arquin 74
HT 0-0	Att 4,295

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A
Leyton O	3	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	6	1
Peterborough	3	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	4	2
Wolves	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	2	1
Walsall	3	1	1	0	4	2	1	0	0	1	0
Colchester	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1
Brentford	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	2	5
Rotherham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	4
M K Dons	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	5
Bradford	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	3	4
Crawley	3	1	0	1	4	4	0	1	0	3	4
Crewe	3	1	1	0	5	4	0	0	1	0	1
Port Vale	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	1
Sheff Utd	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	3
Shrewsbury	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Preston	3	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	3
Oldham	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	5	3
Swindon	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	3
Bristol City	3	0	1	1	3	4	0	0	1	4	5
Tranmere	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	2	2	1
Notts Cnty	3	0	1	1	2	4	0	1	1	2	3
Gillingham	3	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
Stevenage	3	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	1	0	1
Carlisle	3	0	0	2	1	9	0	0	1	0	4
Coventry	3	1	0	0	5	4	1	0	1	6	3

SkyBet League Two

Bury.....3	Acc Stanley.....0
Forrester 28, Sinnott 38	
HT 2-0	Att 3,080
Cheltenham.....1	Plymouth.....3
Richards 72	Morgan 18, Hourihane 27
	Boco 38
HT 0-3	
Exeter.....2	AFC Wimbledon.....0
O'Flynn 11,36	
HT 2-0	Att 3,881
Fleetwood Town.....2	Burton Albion.....13
Hughes 65	Howe 12
Matt 72	McGurk 25
	Hussey 34
HT 0-3	
Newport City.....1	Bristol R.....0
Sandell 42 pen	
HT 1-0	Att 5,387
POMPEY.....3	Morecambe.....0
Wallace 20	
Connolly 26	
Agymang 39	
HT 3-0	Att 14,590
Rochdale.....2	Chesterfield.....2
Tutte 29 pen	Richards 19
Hogan 51	Roberts 65
HT 1-1	Att 2,899
Scunthorpe.....1	Dagenham.....1
Mirfin 88	Howell 90
HT 0-0	Att 3,694
Southend.....2	Northampton.....0
Straker 38	
Eastwood 62	
HT 1-0	Att 5,510
Torquay.....1	Oxford Utd.....3
Chapell 70	Smallley 49
	Constable 63, Hall 77
HT 0-0	Att 3,176
Wycombe.....0	Mansfield.....1
	Palmer 78
HT 0-0	Att 3,352
York.....0	Hartlepool.....0
HT 0-0	Att 4,768



Arsenal's Tomas Rosicky is sent flying by the challenge of Aston Villa's Andreas Weimann at the Emirates Stadium.

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A
Oxford Utd	3	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	7	2
Southend	3	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	9
Chesterfield	3	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	4	2
Exeter	3	2	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	7
Burton Albion	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	4	7
Fleetwood	3	1	0	1	5	4	1	0	0	2	6
Newport	3	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	1	3
Scunthorpe	3	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	5
Rochdale	3	1	1	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	1
POMPEY	3	1	0	1	4	4	0	1	0	2	4
Dagenham	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	4
Wimbledon	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	3
Mansfield	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
York	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Bury	3	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	1	2
Northampton	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	3
Plymouth	3	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	3	2
Wycombe	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Torquay	3	0	1	1	2	4	0	1	0	1	2
Bristol R	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Cheltenham	3	0	1	1	3	5	0	0	1	0	2
Morecambe	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	4
Hartlepool	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Acc Stanley	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	7

Scottish Premiership